



Mama Mia brings back 70s

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Spice it up with a Sanlitun weekend

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Cops probe 'good' American

By Huang Daohen

The case of the "Good" American by day and Interpol target by night has had new developments this week. The police authority in Huangshi City, Hubei Province confirmed yesterday that they are looking into it and have turned to Interpol for help.

Last Friday, *Beijing Today* reported the story of Kenneth Lee Rothey, 68, the "Good" American from Wuhan, Hubei Province, who was praised by Chinese media for his civic spirit in mobilizing people to collect trash.

Interpol knows of another Kenneth Lee Rothey, who is an internationally-wanted fugitive.

The two Rotheys share an amazing list of common traits, including name, date, time, and place of birth, occupation, similar hair color and appearance.

Currently, the Huangshi police is investigating his case. The investigators began a probe last week, and sent agents to speak with Rothey on Monday, the *Beijing News* reported.

The police also sent an assistance request to Interpol, however, no response has been issued, an official from the political department of the Huangshi PSB said.

As for Rothey, his life has become quite rocky since his online exposure. Local media reported that this week, Rothey was expelled from the Olym-

pic torchbearer competition held by CCTV after passing the August 2 quarter-finals.

"All right, I'm the man. The one wanted by Interpol," Rothey told the *Nanfang Weekend* on Wednesday. "However, the possibility of getting me on charges of conspiracy, forgery and money laundering is below zero," he said, angrily, according to the *Nanfang Weekend* reporter.

Rothey admitted that pictures on the Interpol website were his, but denied that he had been involved in any of the crimes listed, the *Nanfang Weekend* reported.

Interpol responded to *Beijing Today's* phone calls on Monday, and said it will not interfere directly with any specific case or individuals except in special circumstances and with approval of all involved countries.

The Interpol representative said that anyone who locates a fugitive in one of the organization's 186 member countries must contact the local authorities directly, who will then access the appropriate Interpol channels, if required, after investigation.

Since China and the US have not ratified a treaty on criminal assistance, the Chinese government has no obligation to extradite Rothey even if he is eventually found guilty, an international law professor Li, from Wuhan University, said.

It's the wheel thing



Blondeau, nicknamed "Transformer Roller," and his friends from a France-based roller club, wheeled out a performance for fellow fans at the Lufthansa Shopping City yesterday.

Photo by Alice Jia

好运北京
GOOD LUCK BEIJING

Pre-Games sports special
The 'Good Luck Beijing' series

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More public transportation serves capital's test events

By He Jianwei

The city will have cars with odd-numbered license plates and those with even-numbered plates hit the roads on alternate days from August 17 to 20 during the period of the "Good Luck Beijing" test events for next year's Olympics amid efforts to ease traffic congestion and improve air quality, an official from the environmental department said Monday.

The use of about 1.3 million automobiles will be banned for the

four days to test the effects of this action on air quality, Du Shaozhong, deputy director of the Beijing Environmental Protection Bureau, said.

The drivers have also been told to leave their cars at home from August 17 to 20 and choose other means of transport, such as buses, subways, taxis or bikes, to honor this request from the Beijing municipal government.

Liu Xiaoming, deputy director of the municipal transportation com-

mission, said they will increase public transport to meet commuting demands during this traffic control experiment.

The three subway lines will be extended one hour for the last train, including Line 1, 2 and the Batong Line. The morning rush hours will be adjusted from 7am-8:30 to 6:30am-9am and the evening rush from 4:30pm-6:30pm to 2:30pm-7pm. And there will be more than 1,600 trains with up to

300,000 passengers traveling every day during the four days.

Almost 19,000 buses will be in service every day during this period and will carry more than 1.6 million passengers daily. Therefore, there will be over 140,000 buses every day and the efficiency of bus transportation will be increased 7 to 15 percent. More than 95 percent of taxis will be on the road during the four days to ensure less impact on citizens' daily lives.

Medicare to cover all urban citizens

By Huang Daohen

China will bring all urban residents under the umbrella of medical insurance by 2010, a senior official said Wednesday.

The central government launched a trial medicare program this year to subsidize 240 million urban residents outside the workforce, Hu Xiaoyi, vice minister of labor and social security, said.

Recent soaring medical costs, Hu said, have become a notable social problem. Many families' medical expenses have already surpassed education and transportation expenses.

The program, to be implemented in 79 cities before September, aims to cover all urban citizens, including children, students and jobless adults. The project will mainly cover expenses of residents during hospitalization and major illness.

Beijing, Tianjin and Shanghai, where similar practices have already been adopted, are not among the pilot cities, Hu said.

The premiums under the program, Hu said, will be paid in terms of households, rather than individuals. Both the central and local governments will fund the subsidies.

Each participant will receive a subsidy of 40 yuan (US\$5.3) annually, and low-income and disabled families may obtain extra subsidies. Participation is voluntary, Hu said.

Different cities are encouraged to develop their own practical policies for the trial. Hu said they should reflect the local revenue and living standard.

When asked about medicare for migrant workers in cities, Hu said migrant workers from the countryside should also be insured as urban employees, as the relatively rural cooperative insurance cannot cover the high hospital expenses in cities.

Hu said all employers of migrant workers are totally obligated to cover their employees' medical insurance.

China has 200 million migrant workers currently, Hu said, of whom 120 to 130 million work in cities.

Positive face for disabled



Sang Lan, former member of the national gymnastic team, has become the face of the country's first Non-obstacle Day.

Photo by Brook Wang

Asia's rising labor poses challenge

By Huang Daohen

Asian governments need to pay close attention to problems such as sharp growth in the labor force and accelerating urbanization to ensure sustainable development, a UN's International Labor Organization (ILO) representative said in a forum held at the China World Hotel from Monday to Tuesday.

The continent's vast labor force, already estimated at some 1.8 billion workers, is expected to grow by more than 200 million in the next eight years, posing new policy challenges to the region's rapidly growing economies, the ILO representative said.

"Vulnerabilities arising from environmental pressures, shortcomings in governance and unequal income distribution pose a threat to the region's future development," a report released during the forum said.

The growing number of informal workers topped ILO's list of major challenges. Most of Asia, including China, has many informal workers with little or no social protection and with low productivity jobs.

It is said that over a billion people in the region's workforce work under the economic radar. In 2006, 900 million people in the region were working for US\$2 a day, and more than 300 million had an income of only US\$1 a day.

It is unlikely there will be a rapid drop in workers in this "informal economy," the report said.

Further risks included an aging population, increasing migration, rising income inequalities and long working hours.

ILO predicted that the service sector will surpass all other sectors in job creation by 2015 in the Asia-Pacific region, which includes India and China. It estimates that nearly 40 percent of the region's employment will be in the service sector.

Car-owners promote 'green travel'

By Huang Daohen

Drivers in Beijing, mostly private car owners, joined the city's volunteers to encourage people to drive less and choose "green travel" methods in their daily commutes, Wednesday.

The car owners and volunteers, dressed in orange volunteer uniforms, provided people with traffic route maps and vehicle-related materials at the city's volunteer service sites, including Wangfujing Street, Shichahai area and the West Railway Station.

They suggest people drive as little as possible, and instead, use buses, subways, taxis or bicycles to commute. Some Beijing celebrities also joined the day's activity, including Wang Jia, broadcaster at Beijing traffic radio, and He Beiqi, an anchor from Beijing TV.

Most citizens supported the proposal and believe that Beijing should take action to cut down the number of private cars on the streets. "Though it may be a little inconvenient, it is sure to improve urban transportation and the environment," a woman surnamed Li, who lives in the Fang-zhuang area, said.

China slashes domestic flights

By Chu Meng

A total of 336 domestic flights to and from Beijing Capital International Airport will be scrapped from August 15 to October 27, sources with the Civil Aviation Administration of China (CAAC) confirmed yesterday.

The measure came in response to a shortage of technicians and other professionals and the limited capacity of domestic airports. It will decrease the number of peak-hour flights from as many as

60 to 58 per hour.

In a second phase of cuts, from November to March, the number of peak hour flights at Beijing Capital International Airport will drop to 55 per hour, still leaving a minute between each flight. CAAC representatives said most flights to be canceled are operated by the nation's three leading carriers: Air China, China Southern and China Eastern.

They said airlines had been warned that as many as 120 flights

and two services had been canceled since the CAAC launched a campaign in June to reduce airport delays. The CAAC noted the 20 most-delayed flights every ten days. Flights were canceled after two warnings. The campaign aims to prevent long delays next August when Beijing hosts the 2008 Olympic Games, CAAC sources said.

The administration views cuts as concrete steps to cool the overheating air transport market, which is regularly plagued by flight delays.

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BEIJING TODAY

Money-saving alcohol ban sparks controversy

By Huang Daohen

An alcohol ban for civil servants in Xinyang, Henan Province has saved more than 43 million yuan (US\$5.67 million), the city's senior official said on Monday.

The ban, which took effect this January, was initiated by Wang Tie, a party chief from Xinyang city, Henan Province. Wang was assigned to the city early this year and was annoyed by some officials who were drinking on the job.

A regulation was launched to

prohibit civil servants from tanking up at lunch break. "Since break is short, in order to keep up their energy and efficiency, we decided not to drink at noon. They are still allowed to drink at night or on holidays," Wang told Xinhua's Henan branch.

Wang said the cost of reception dropped 30 percent during the first half of the year, and the money saved is enough to open as many as 40 elementary schools.

The ban has had other nota-

ble effects, Wang told the *Henan Business Daily*. During physical checks in July, 127 officials were found to have medical conditions related to alcoholism, only half as many as in the last year's checkup.

As for calculating the outcome, an official at the Xinyang government said the statistics were calculated based on the government's finance expenses.

The city has established three supervisory teams to examine

officials' performances, and have so far punished 200 people for breaking the new regulation.

The ban has met with positive response from most locals. Some said that the ban has helped the officials to better serve the community and it should not be halted.

Nevertheless, different voices bounce online. "It sounds ridiculous, and it's just more face work for the government," a poster named Chongyan011 wrote.

Strutting into new homes

By Gan Tian

Zhang Chengze, a Beijing local living in Changdiancun Village, Chaoyang District, has welcomed guests from all over the country since last week. The guests arrived aiming to take home a new pet — Zhang's blue peacock.

Early this month, Zhang's special pets, 20 blue peacocks, hatched 300 baby birds. "Raising them is a huge burden for me, so I contacted a reporter in *The Mirror* and she ran an ad for me to say that the peacocks need kind owners," Zhang said. After the notice went out, many curious citizens called Zhang for information, and some rushed to ask for a bird.

Not everyone could receive a peacock. "They must be very tender and love animals. I also asked people why they want a peacock. Business purposes were immediately rejected," Zhang said. He had a notebook, and recorded the information of everyone who received a bird. He plans to call them regularly to check in on how the bird is doing.

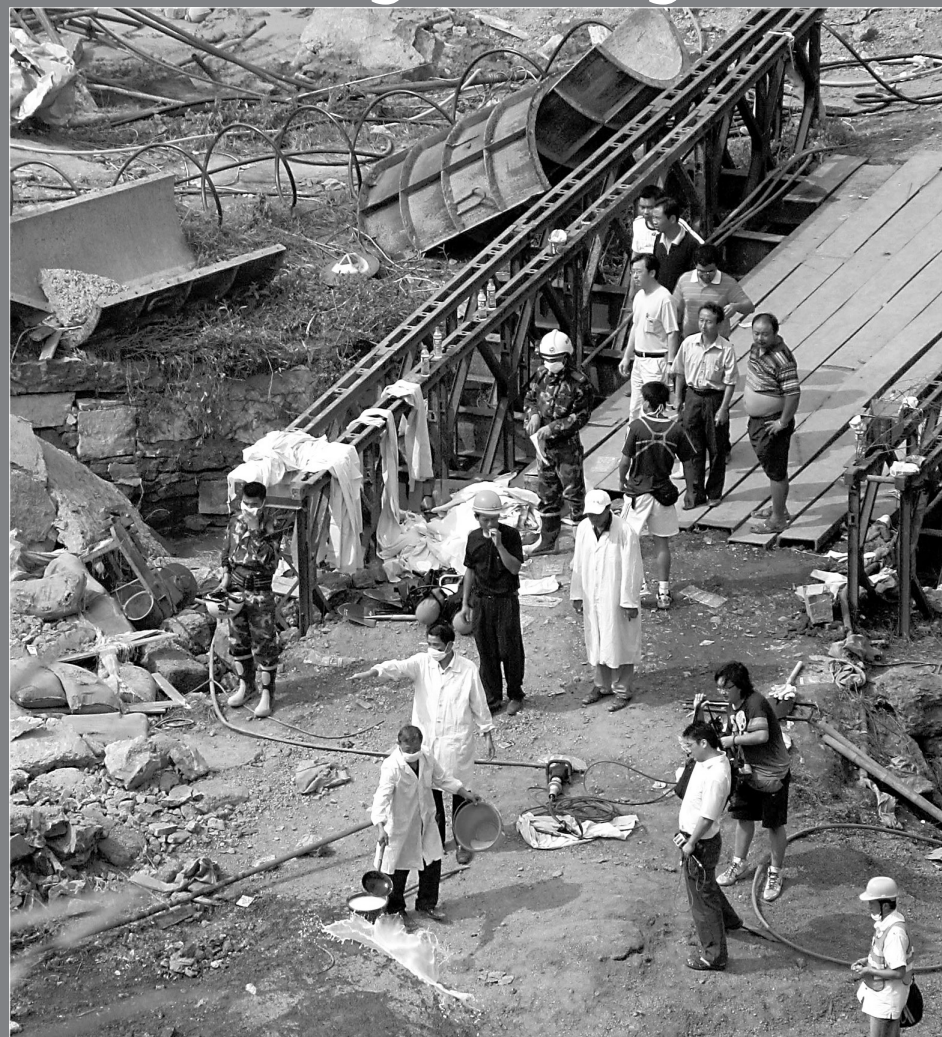
An Shaoyong was the first person to ask for a peacock, "I never thought that an ordinary person could have the opportunity to raise peacocks. I always thought of them as precious animals in the zoo. I am getting one for my parents who live alone. They will be very happy."

What impressed Zhang the most was two hospitals which asked for peacocks. "One is Daliushu Psychosis Rehabilitation Center and the other is Songtang Hospice. I've heard that the patients there were elated. It's a way to give back to society."

Zhang got the blue peacocks three years ago from a schoolmate. In the following years, they had many peacock babies, some of which Zhang sent as gifts to his friends, and some of which he sold. "I don't know what the market price is for peacocks, but some people have paid a lot — from several hundred to a thousand yuan," Zhang said.

Though green peacocks are included in the list of Chinese National Second Precious Animals, which means individuals are not allowed to raise them, blue peacocks are not on the list. However, Zhang said blue peacocks sometimes produce white peacocks, which are even more rare and precious. His blue peacocks once hatched a white baby.

Hunan bridges falling down



Local medical staff were working on the scene of a collapsed bridge Wednesday in Fenghuang County, Hunan Province, to prevent possible epidemic. The bridge under construction collapsed Monday, claiming 41 lives.

CFP Photo

Debate blazes over mid-summer Ice Fest

By Gan Tian

The International Ice and Snow Festival was held at the Huanglong Gymnasium of Hangzhou, Zhejiang Province, at the end of June. In only two months, the festival used up as much as 100,000 kilowatt hours of electricity.

It took ten refrigeration units running all day to keep the 10,000 square-meter gym at a frosty temperature below six degrees centigrade. Millions of tons of water were also transported to the gym to make the sculptures. Visitors paid a door charge of 100-150 yuan to enter the hall, and the festival drew as few as 200 persons per day.

Zhejiang Energy Conservation conducted a survey on elec-

trical use and reported that the festival consumed at least 1,000 to 1,500 kilowatt hours per day, 800 higher than industrial electricity consumption.

However, since July, Hangzhou's suburbs have lost power 48 times. Zhejiang Power Station workers said that, because of the heat, the province is in need of about 600,000 kilowatt hours of electricity. To meet basic needs, the province demanded all the supermarkets, shopping malls and industries to avoid operating during energy-rush hours. Zhao Xuexiang, the director of Zhejiang Energy Conservation, said, "the festival is not a suitable energy consumer."

Hu Miaolong, another director in Zhejiang Energy Conservation, mentioned that there was a law in 1998 to regulate energy-saving in China, but the law only spelled out detailed regulations for industrial and agricultural consumption.

Hangzhou was not the only city to hold an ice festival this summer. Another festival ran in Guangzhou. Gaps in the country's legal code make it difficult for the government to clamp down on these "anti-season activities." Experts around the country are calling for revisions to the energy code to control and supervise energy consumption in the service industry.

Language on the go

By He Jianwei

A translation terminal has been installed in 40 of Shouqi's taxis to provide three foreign languages to passengers, an official from the local Shouqi Auto Lease Corporation said Tuesday.

The taxis can provide quick translation service in English, Japanese and Korean, and all the taxis from Shouqi will feature this device before the 2008 Beijing Olympic Games, Gong Haifeng, director of CPC office at Shouqi, said.

The translation terminal is installed on the back of the driver's seat. If a foreign passenger has language trouble, the driver can dial 5260 0158 to give the passengers free translation service.

The company has 140 operators working in the translation center to provide 24-hour free service. The terminal features a high-quality microphone and loudspeaker to guarantee smooth communication between passengers and the operators.

"We aim to provide more foreign language services in the future," Gong said.

Brief news

Business criminals

The country filed 2.1 million crime cases during the first half of the year — almost as many as during the same period of last year. Violent crimes, including murder, rape, arson and bombings, have fallen, and white collar crime is on the rise, Wu Heping, spokesman for the Ministry of Public Security, said this week.

Rabies takes its toll

As many as 276 people died of rabies last month accounting for more than one third of last month's total infectious-disease-related deaths, the Ministry of Health reported this week.

Beijingers prefer to die at home

A total of 62,767 people died during the last year, and as many as 49 percent of them chose to do it at home, according to the latest report issued by the city's Health Bureau.

Expensive concrete box

Housing prices during the second quarter have jumped 6 percent over last year in 70 major cities, and the capital ranks third, with a rise of over 10 percent, according to the report issued this week by the National Bureau of Statistics.

Debt-saddled colleges

Colleges across the country were steeped in as much as 200 billion yuan (US\$26.4 billion) of unpaid bank loans at the end of 2005, a report released this week by the National Development and Reform Commission showed.

A porked up situation

The country's corporate pork price rose 11.5 percent last month, over 85 percent higher than the same month last year, figures the People's Bank of China released Tuesday showed.

(By Jiang Xubo)

Chinese drivers hone the art of eluding the toll

Beijing (iht.com) – Few motorists brighten at the sight of toll-booths ahead. In China, which is building more toll roads than any other country in the world, legions of drivers are trying almost anything to avoid them.

By 2020, if all goes as planned, China will have completed about 85,000 kilometers, almost 53,000 miles, of expressway, a network roughly equivalent to the interstate highway system in the US. China considers expressways crucial to maintaining its economic growth and to developing its western and interior provinces.

Toll road building has been so feverish that roughly 40,000 kilometers of toll expressways were built from 1990 to 2005, according to the World Bank. At the same time, China has been adding millions of new cars to the roads every year – a seemingly perfect combination of vehicles and toll roads. But Chinese are famous economizers, and tolls are expensive compared to income levels.

A recent World Bank report on China's highway construction program found that the toll roads were charging roughly the same as the German toll system –

despite far lower per capita incomes in China.

Tolls on China's roads are here to stay as they are the only way to pay for the rapid construction and maintenance of expressways and highways, Minister of Communications Li Shenglin said.

"Without this policy, the national road network development plan will not be realized within the time limit and the huge debt will never be repaid," Li said.

However, a growing number of motorists have expressed resentment at the policy, calling for more free roads.

Li pointed out that toll charges on second-grade highways were the worst problem.

"These tolls have two thirds of the country's tolled mileage and points, but contribute less than one third of the total toll revenue," Li said.

"But the tolling policy should remain unchanged as China will need it for a long time to come."

Li said the ministry was considering measures to control the scale of tolled roads, while encouraging local governments to buy out some of the second-grade roads.

(By Huang Daohen)

Humble potato set to beat drought

Beijing (Reuters) – Chinese farming experts are considering planting potatoes instead of rice and wheat to beat crippling drought each year, state media said.

"The potato is more drought-resistant than rice and wheat, which suits China better as 60 percent of the country's arable land is dry," Qu Dongyu, a potato farming specialist with the Chinese Academy of Agricultural Sciences, was quoted by Xinhua news agency as saying.

China, widely hit by summer floods, also suffers from a shortage of 30 billion cubic metres of water for irrigation every year.

"The potato is not only more nutritious, but potato yields per hectare weigh three to four times more than other crops," Chen Fan, a researcher with the Chinese Academy of Sciences' Institute of Genetics and Developmental Biology, said.



Search for roots

Thirty Chinese boys and girls adopted by American families are performing at the opening ceremony of a summer camp event in Beijing, August 15.

The ten-day summer camp, entitled "2007 Hugging China, Sensing Beijing," was organized for the kids to learn about the country where they were born and to try to find their birth parents.

Xinhua Photo

350 websites punished

Beijing (Middle East Times) – Chinese authorities have punished 348 Internet websites for publishing "pornographic novels" online, citing social order concerns, state media reported Tuesday.

Some of those websites have even been closed down, Xinhua news agency said, without stating the exact number.

Publishing pornographic novels online "causes great harm to the psychological development of young people" and violates China's laws on Internet and publishing, Xinhua quoted the state press watchdog as saying.

Chinese authorities announced in April a six-month campaign to purge the Internet of pornography, vowing that curtains will be drawn on cyber strip-shows and sexually explicit audio and video clips.

Online pornography is already illegal, and China takes great efforts to ban offending sites, though cyber-sex remains a mouse click away.

Beijing to reward citizens reporting food safety issues

Beijing (Reuters) – Beijing city authorities will reward citizens who report food safety concerns to officials, state media said after a TV reporter was jailed for cooking up a report about dumpings made with cardboard.

China has been shaken by a wave of safety scares over products ranging from toys to toothpaste and food laced with toxins, bacteria and dangerous additives, and has fought back through news briefings, new rules and promises of more spending.

Food safety has taken on added urgency in the run-up to the Olympics in August 2008.

The new regulation, which is being drafted by the Beijing legislature, would "let people play an active role in safeguarding the city's food table," the *Beijing Youth Daily* said, citing a top city legislator.

The regulation would also increase penalties to officials found responsible for food safety accidents, it said.

Beijing residents support relocation

Beijing (Reuters) – The relocation of hundreds of thousands of Beijing residents for the Olympic Games venues, as part of a massive city redevelopment program, is a "good thing" which enjoys their support, a top city construction official said on Wednesday.

The Chinese capital has embarked on the redevelopment program over the last few years – partly to get ready for next year's Olympic Games – with thousands of old houses being knocked down and residents moved to new accommodation outside the city.

Rights groups have accused the city authorities of evicting many of the residents against their will and moving them far away from their old homes.

"The ultimate goal of Beijing's construction development is to benefit the people," Sui Zhenjiang, director of Beijing's construction committee, told a news conference.

"The reason we have been able to move so quickly is because of the understanding of the people whose houses have

been relocated. With their support, our work has been progressing smoothly."

Sui said some 40,000 to 50,000 households a year had been relocated, not the 1.5 million people alleged in a June report from the Geneva-based Centre on Housing Rights and Evictions.

Less than two percent of those displacements were directly related to the building of the Olympic venues, Sui added.

He did concede that moving a home did cause problems.

"It is a challenge as well as an opportunity," he said. "Most relocated citizens will have to change their living habits ... resulting in inconvenience in terms of employment, schooling and access to medical services and transport."

The main complaint among those Beijing residents unhappy at being evicted is a lack of adequate compensation.

Sui said "market evaluation" was being used to fix levels of compensation and the money paid out would increase in line with the cost of accommodation in the city.

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Trade surplus facing upward pressures

Beijing (Dow Jones) – China's Ministry of Commerce said Thursday the country's trade surplus is still facing upward pressures despite a series of measures adopted earlier this

year to curb export growth.

"The existing data shows exports have continued to grow while the trade surplus is still facing upward pressures," said Wang Xinpei, the ministry's

spokesman, in a press briefing.

China's trade surplus hit US\$24.36 billion in July, the second-highest monthly surplus on record after June's US\$26.9 billion.

Wang reiterated China's stance that it isn't chasing a large trade surplus and that the country's export growth largely depends on the structure of global trade.

Trade surplus may hit US\$275 bln

Beijing (Reuters) – China's trade surplus may swell this year to US\$275 billion from US\$177.5 billion in 2006, according to the State Information Center.

Fan Jianping, head of the centre's economic forecasting

department, said the surplus would rise mainly because of strong global demand.

In an article in the Shanghai Securities News, Fan attributed the 83 percent rise in the surplus, to US\$112.5 billion in the

first six months, to front-loading of exports ahead of expected tax changes and to an inadequate pace of yuan appreciation.

For the full year, he forecasts that exports will rise 26 percent to US\$1.22 trillion, with

imports up 19.5 percent to US\$946 billion.

Fan recommended a further 2 percent cut in export tax rebates on all products and said China should import more consumer goods.

Beijing spends big on IT for Olympic Games

Beijing (IDG) – The price tag for IT and communications at the world's biggest sporting event will run to around US\$400 million. Live testing has already started on systems for the 2008 Summer Olympic Games in Beijing, which officially run from August 8-24.

Atos Origin was responsible for building the IT systems at the past few Olympic Games and is responsible for the design, building, and operation of the IT systems in Beijing next year. Atos has said work on the IT systems used for the 2006 Winter Olympic Games in Torino, Italy, started two and a half years before the event and underwent 100,000 hours of testing.

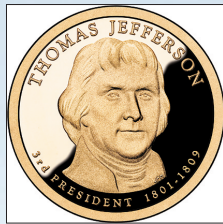
Lenovo, which is supplying laptop PCs, desktops, servers, printers, and other gear, said its contribution totals 20,000 pieces of equipment. After the Olympic Games are over, BOCOG will keep the gear and likely sell it or give it to charity, said Leon Xie, director of Olympic sponsorship for Lenovo.

China pays US\$2.95 bln for Barclays stake

Beijing (Asia Pulse) – China Development Bank (CDB) has paid 2.2 billion euros (US\$2.95 billion) for 201.39 million new ordinary shares in Barclays, the first time the state-backed CDB has been involved in an international buyout of a large financial institution.

The London-based Barclays said it had issued the shares to CDB as well as 135.42 million new ordinary shares to Temasek Holdings for 1.4 billion euros, in line with a deal announced on July 23.

The shares were bought at the agreed price of 7.2 pounds per share. The purchases give CDB a 3.1 per cent stake in Barclays' existing share capital and Temasek's 2.1 per cent.



New coin reward

The US Mint introduced the new Thomas Jefferson one dollar coin at the Jefferson Memorial, Washington DC, August 15.

US President George W Bush signed an act last year, allowing the US Mint to manufacture

new coins with former US presidents who have died for two years or more.

The Mint will release the new coins every three months, four types each year.

Xinhua Photos

PetroChina eyes second south China refinery

Beijing (Reuters) – China's top oil and gas producer PetroChina plans to build its second refinery in southern China, the official Xinhua news agency said, quoting a company official.

The planned plant, which would have a capacity of more than 200,000 barrels per day (bpd), will be located in Zhuhai in Guangdong province, neighbouring Macao, Xinhua said in

its bi-weekly energy newsletter dated August 15.

The report did not say whether PetroChina had submitted a proposal for the refinery to the National Development and Reform Commission, China's top economic regulator, for approval, but quoted the company official as saying "there will be no problem getting approval from the state".

PetroChina is also building

a 200,000-bpd refinery in Qinzhou in Guangxi region, which it hopes to complete by 2009. It will be the company's first major foothold in a booming southern China market that is dominated by rival Sinopec.

China National Petroleum Corporation (CNPC), PetroChina's parent, recently inked a deal with Zhuhai to run gas networks in the city.

AIG allowed to offer investment products

Beijing (XFN-ASIA) – The China Insurance Regulatory Commission said it has given approval to American International Assurance Co Ltd (AIA), a unit of American International Group Inc (AIG), to launch two investment-linked insurance products in China.

The products will be provided by seven AIA branches including those in Beijing, Shanghai and Shenzhen, the CIRC said in a statement.

Saxo Bank opens Beijing office

Beijing (finextra.com) – Saxo Bank is opening its new representative office in Beijing.

Increased proximity to clients, partners and liquidity providers were the main drivers behind Saxo Bank's decision to continue its expansion in the Asian-Pacific region and to open its new office in Beijing.

The office will work closely with the Singapore-based Saxo Capital Markets Pte Ltd subsidiary.

Gateway to sell PCs in China

Beijing (Bloomberg) – Gateway Inc, the third-largest US maker of personal computers, will begin selling in China to boost international sales six years after it exited the Asian market.

Gateway's desktop and notebook PCs and computer monitors will be available across the country in shops such as Best Buy Co's flagship Shanghai store, the Irvine, California-based company said.

Gateway withdrew from European and Asian markets in 2001 to cut costs.

China Merchants Energy to order six vessels

Shanghai (Reuters) – China Merchants Energy Shipping Co, the country's biggest oil carrier, said on Thursday it plans to order six vessels and will seek up to US\$200 million in bank credit to fund the purchase.

The company has signed an initial agreement to buy five 180,000 ton bulk cargo carriers from a state-run shipbuilder in the northeastern city of Dalian. It also placed an order for a very large crude carrier but did not identify the manufacturer.

Nike opens store in Beijing

Beijing (ddimagazine.com) – Nike Inc opened a flagship store in Beijing as part of its expanding retail presence in China.

Charlie Denson, president of Nike, said the Beijing store, which adds to 3,000 Nike stores in 300 cities across China, is part of the company's plan to make China its second-largest market before the 2008 Olympics.

The 13,000 square foot store will feature an assortment of Nike products and is located adjacent to Dongdan Park, a Nike-sponsored recreational park.

Building a school for the blind, from Tibet to India

By Annie Wei

The Tibet railway's completion and the ensuing trains full of tourists have convinced long-term expat residents Sabriye Tenberken and Paul Kronenberg that it's time to leave.

During their ten-year tenure in Tibet, Tenberken, a blind German woman, and Kronenberg, a Dutchman, built a training center for blind Tibetan children and enrolled 114 students, trained 10 masseuses and sent 15 children to normal schools.

They built a farm to train students living skills and set up an international NGO Braille Without Borders, which aims to

bring blind people knowledge and skills, and help them survive in society on their own.

During the ten years, stories about the couple were repeatedly published. Tenberken, who lost her sight as a teenager, fought to survive on her own. When she traveled to Tibet and found there was no Braille system for Tibetans, she invented one in two weeks. She met Kronenberg, a man who shared her passion, and together the two built it all.

"We will leave eventually," Kronenberg said over the phone, "but we want to make sure the school will be taken over by a student or staff member who will continue it for many years."

Kronenberg and Tenberken's new project is to set up an international training center in India. It is currently under construction. The center will train blind people from all over the world. They will go to the international training center in India, stay for a year to learn everything they need to build a school like the Tibetan one, and then they can return to do the same for local blind children.

Kronenberg said fund raising is their biggest concern about the future of the school. All funding thus far has come from overseas foundations.

The school has tried everything to generate its own money.



Kronenberg (left) and Tenberken

Photo provided by Kronenberg

Kronenberg said the school has its own farm which makes organic cheese, a bio-bakery and a coffee house for tourists who visit Tibet.

People interested in this NGO are welcome to visit the school on a Lhasa-Tibet trip. The school's website is at braillewithoutborders.org.



Beijing experiences Shaq attack

NBA legend and Miami star, Shaquille O'Neal, stayed with fans during a contest on Tuesday. O'Neal started his five-day visit in China on Monday to help run a street basketball tournament sponsored by Li Ning Company.

Photo by James Yuan

Anti-aging guru explains RealAge

By Huang Daohen

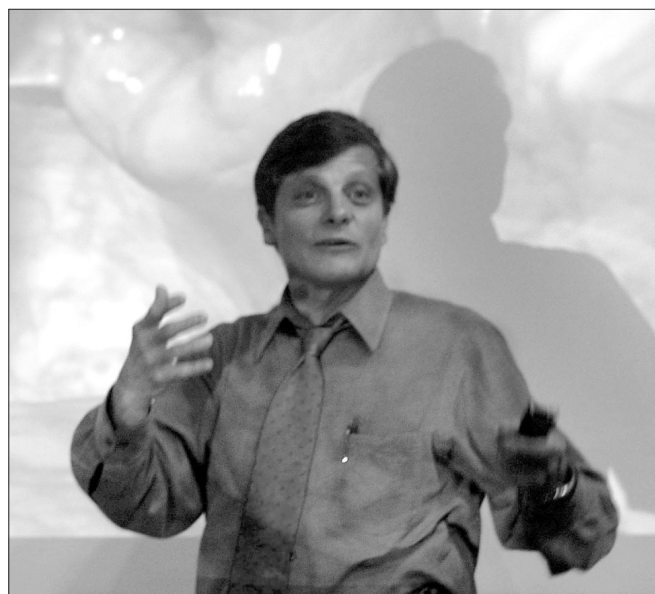
Michael Roizen, anti-aging guru and best-selling author of RealAge test, shared the mystery of staying young and healthy with local residents Wednesday night in a lecture at Green Town community in Yizhuang.

The American doctor was invited to the community for a lecture by chance, since he was in Beijing to participate in an international medical conference. One of the organizers, Jolin Li, a former Roizen patient and now good friend of the doctor, lived in the same community and asked him to deliver a lecture to local Chinese residents.

The lecture was delivered in a conference room that held 50 people. The doctor introduced himself as being 42 years old, though everyone in the audience knew he was in his 60s.

"[Forty-two] is my biological age. The calculation is based on lifestyle, genetics and medical history," Roizen said, adding that there are 142 things - like tobacco and alcohol use, exercise, parents' health and pet ownership - that affect the length and quality of life.

Roizen said that simple steps like drinking less alcohol, eating more vegetables and taking vitamins may actually make people



Michael Roizen

Photo by Tian Yufeng

years younger biologically.

He never forgot his humor, and he encouraged people to be familiar with their own bodies. He said people should start by examining the shape of their morning stool. "No one should be embarrassed about his or her own body," Roizen said. "Stools shaped like the letters C, S and J are normal and preferred."

Riozon showed overall opti-

mism about the length and quality of life in China, and in the country's economic boom in the past decades. Still, he suggests that people should take a 30-minute walk each day.

"A persistent walk every day turns on genes that make anti-inflammatory proteins. That in turn decreases the risk of heart attack, stroke and cancer," Roizen said.

Find the Netherlands in China

By Han Manman

As a part of the Netherlands-China 35th anniversary of diplomatic relation celebration, a nation-wide photo competition themed "Find the Netherlands in China" held by the Dutch embassy is running this week.

Anyone with a camera can submit a photo to the online competition via a specially-created website before September 23. Submission must include an explanation of the "Dutch" elements in the photo. The best photos will be put on display in a photo exhibition, and winners will be announced

during the Holland Week opening ceremony in Chaoyang Park. Holland Week will run from September 28 until October 7.

Visit holland.tom.com to join in the competition. Prizes are sponsored by well-known Dutch and Chinese companies, and winners will have the chance to win an eight-day trip to Europe to visit the Netherlands, or to win a diamond cut by a famous Dutch diamond factory.

In the upcoming Beijing Chaoyang District International Tourism and Culture Festival this year, a genuine Dutch village,

complete with traditional Dutch houses and a real windmill, will be shipped from the Netherlands to Beijing, Wu Rui, news officer of Dutch embassy, said.

In the village, visitors can watch Dutch handicraft demonstrations, including glass blowing and blue painting, and have the chance to taste all kinds of Dutch food. Visitors can have their photos taken in traditional Dutch costumes.

Information will be provided on Dutch companies, investment opportunities and study abroad locations in the Netherlands.

China Open tickets on sale

By Jiang Xubo

Tickets for this year's China Open tennis event available through September 8, the day when the ball drops at Beijing Tennis Center in Fengtai District.

Grand Pass

Fans, who buy tickets for a package of events are entitled to free additional tickets in addition to a 20-percent-discount.

Fans who buy two tickets in two different events in the quarter-finals, semi-finals or finals can get one ticket for any of the main draws in addition to the discount.

Fans who buy three tickets in at least two different sessions among the quarter-finals, semi-finals or finals get two free tickets for two of the main draws in addition to the discount.

Students, seniors and soldiers are entitled to half-price tickets, while certificates are necessary. Tickets priced at 20 yuan are not included on the list.

VIP corporate box packages

- 1.Box with 24 seats for 600,000 yuan (US\$85,715); fans can enjoy all events between September 10 and 23.
- 2.Box with 12 seats for 360,000 yuan (US\$51,430); fans can enjoy all events between September 10 and 23.
- 3.Box with 24 seats for

Date	Match	Session	No earlier than	Lower	Upper	Corner
September 10-13, September 17-20 (Monday to Thursday)	ATP/WTa main draw	Day	12:30pm	50 yuan	50 yuan	50 yuan
		Night	5pm	100 yuan	100 yuan	50 yuan
September 14 and September 21 (Friday)	ATP/WTa Quarter-finals	Day	12:30pm	150 yuan	150 yuan	150 yuan
		Night	5pm	300 yuan	300 yuan	150 yuan
September 15 and September 22 (Saturday)	ATP/WTa Semi-finals	Day	12:30pm	600 yuan	400 yuan	200 yuan
		Night	5pm	600 yuan	400 yuan	200 yuan
September 16 and September 23 (Sunday)	ATP/WTa Finals	Day	Doubles 3pm	800 yuan	600 yuan	400 yuan
		Night	Singles 5pm			

500,000 yuan (US\$71,430); fans can enjoy all SE WTA and ATP quarter-finals, semi-finals and finals.

4.Box with 12 seats for 338,000 yuan (US\$48,280); fans can enjoy all SE WTA and ATP quarter-finals, semi-finals and finals.

5.Box with 12 seats for 198,000 yuan (US\$28,300); fans can enjoy all events of either SE WTA or ATP.

6.Box with 12 seats for 180,000 yuan (US\$25,715); fans can enjoy all quarter-finals,

semi-finals and finals for either SE WTA or ATP.

Box spectators can attend the event's reception and tennis clinics. All box seats offer complimentary buffet meals - both lunch and dinner - for each spectator, along with free snacks and drinks. VIP packages include free parking spaces - two to six of them.

Other information

Where: Beijing Tennis Center
No 1, Guangcai Road, Fengtai District

When: September 8-23

Tickets: 6417 0058 or 6417 0068. For English, call 6417 7845.

Getting there: Take buses 610, 17, 946, 43, 813, 741 or 826 and get off at Zhaogongkou. If you prefer driving your own car, you can follow Third Ring road and turn south onto Zhaogongkou Bridge. Turn south at the crossover and continue for another half-a-kilometer. The competition venue will be on your right.

Website: chinaopen.com.cn.

ASK Beijing Today

Email your questions to weiyiing@ynet.com

Do you know what's the best way to find landlords directly instead of going through an agency? Some friends told me to try online but it ended up the same. How can I find agencies offering the cheapest fee? My friends told me that theirs only charged them half a month's rent while most cost a full month's.

An enthusiastic reader Yuri Ilyakhin wrote us an email to provide his suggestions on locating landlords directly:

You can find landlords in the Beijing free ads paper Hand to Hand (*Shou Di Shou*). It is easily found on most newsstands. They publish their ads looking for tenants without mediators. Currently, this newspaper is in Chinese only. You might need to ask a local friend or friends who can read Chinese to help if you are not confident in your reading ability.

I am an Olympic athlete competing in the Good Luck Beijing Competition. It was frustrating to see there is no professional weightlifting or free weights gym in or near this area. After asking all of the organizers, hotel staff and locals, nobody seems able to direct me to this kind of facility. There are gyms in the bigger hotels, but I am looking for a more specific type of gym which has platforms for Olympic lifts for Clean and Jerk type exercises. Could you please advise me on the closest gym that has these kinds of facilities.

Beijing Today called a few well-known gyms like the Evolution and Csi-Bally Total Fitness Club. They said their equipment is more for average customers with equipment machines named Life, Technogym or Hammer.

(By Annie Wei/Dianna Bai)

Xizhimen station partly closes for month

By Jiang Xubo

The northern hall of Xizhimen subway station on Line 2 closed yesterday and will remain closed for the next 31 days for renovations on the automatic ticket sales and checking systems,

a spokesman for the Beijing Mass Transit Railway Operation Corp announced this week on the corporation's website.

Steps to the station's north hall platform will be closed for the duration of the project. Passengers, who get into the station from the northwest and northeast entrances can walk south through the western waiting hall for Line 4, and then head for the southern waiting hall for Line 2, where the steps

to the station's platform will remain open.

Passengers, who get off at the station and head north can walk to the eastern waiting hall for Line 4, and then turn north to the exit.

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Equestrians kicking off to luck



Gold medalist Frank Ostholt is jumping for the last day's competition.

Photos by Brook Wang

By Chu Meng

As the most important host city among Qingdao, Shenyang and Shanghai, Hong Kong staged the equestrian trial competition from August 11 to 13 for the 2008 Olympic Games. With the one-year-countdown started on August 8, this event celebrates its 10th anniversary return to China.

The main objective of this test event was to examine, in detail, the logistics surrounding the Olympic equestrian competition. The teams traveled, not so much to evaluate the performances of their horses and riders, but to carefully examine the facilities and become as accustomed as possible for next year. Special attention was given to the study of the climatic conditions which may present difficulties, given the high temperatures and level of humidity that occur in Hong Kong in mid-August.

The competition was held at the Hong Kong Olympic Equestrian Venues in Sha Tin and Beas River. The competition was divided into two classes, namely "International Event Competi-



From the left, Agnes Allcock, Lam Woon-Kwong, John Ridley. CFP Photo

tion Two Star" (CCI 2*) for overseas entries, and "Hong Kong Equestrian Federation Preliminary Event Competition" for local entries.

A very interesting ceremony full of southeastern Chinese traditions such as "cutting the roasted baby pig" was held one day before the event for the purpose of blessing the whole competition and the Olympics. Three roasted baby pigs were cut from head to tail by Agnes Allcock, deputy secretary for home affairs, home affairs bureau of Hong Kong Government; Lam Woon-kwong,

chairman of the Good Luck Beijing-HKSAR 10th Anniversary Cup Organizing Committee and John Ridley, director of the racing of Hong Kong Jockey Club.

Sixteen highly experienced riders and horses representing Australia, France, Germany, Great Britain, Ireland, The Netherlands, Sweden and the US competed in the test event. Among them was France's Olympic team champion Nicolas Touzaint on Liam de la Roche; he is also the winner of the 2006 FEI World Cup™ Event Final and a national Event champion.

German victory in test event

After three days of competition, Germany's Frank Ostholt on After the Battle finished with a Dressage score of 53.4 and won the Good Luck Beijing - HKSAR 10th Anniversary Cup Event Competition. Another German, Dirk Schrader (GER) on Grand Amour was second (54.6) and Shane Rose of Australia riding Stratford Novallis was third (66.6).

The Jumping phase took place in the evening under floodlights. Despite the fact that the sun had set, the temperature remained high at 30 degrees centigrade but humidity had mercifully dropped to 75 percent.

It was a great finale to an altogether successful test event and gold medalist, Frank Ostholt, was delighted by his victory, "Even though today's result was not so much about winning or losing, I was very excited. It was very useful for us to come here. Our team came to gain insights but winning makes this trip even sweeter."



Zhang Ying and Ji Linjun competed for the final on Wednesday. CFP Photos

Gold medal winner to appear this weekend

By Jackie Zhang

The top eight pairs for the Good Luck Beijing 2007 FIVB Beach Volleyball Women's Challenger came out last night. The pairs from China, Thailand, Switzerland and Brazil all got their opportunity to enter the matches for the next round. The finals will be held this Sunday and the gold medal winner will be announced then.

Chinese partners Zhang Ying and Ji Linjun, Swiss athletes Isabelle Forrer and Sarah Schmocker and the pair from Thailand, Kamoltip Kulna and Yupa Puklongply, are the top three players for the competition at this time.

In the matches yesterday, they won their matches with ease and are now heading for possible gold.

The Good Luck Beijing 2007 FIVB Beach Volleyball Women's Challenger started this past Monday at the beach volleyball venue in Chaoyang Park. There are, in total, 24 teams from 13 countries and regions. The Chinese pair of Zhang Ying and Ji Linjun rank first among all the players. However, since most of the world's top-ranked players are preparing for the qualification competitions for next year's Olympics, most of the athletes coming to the Challenger series are not that strong.



Zhang Ying (left) and Ji Linjun

Still a long way to go

By Jackie Zhang

Zhang Ying and Ji Linjun, one from the southern part of China and the other from the north, over the last five months, have been the competing couple in beach volleyball. In the first four days of the event, Zhang and Ji romped smoothly to victory. But they said that the rest of the matches were tough.

Wednesday was Zhang Ying's 24th birthday. On that day, she and her partner, Ji, won their last group match, which was a special birthday gift for her. "Actually, I do not have any special wish for my birthday. I just want to play every match well and win the gold medal," Zhang Ying said.

She started her beach volleyball career in 2000. She used to be an indoor volleyball player in Fujian Province, her home town. Then, her coach took over the beach volleyball team and, as a result, she followed her coach and became a beach volleyball player. Then, she paired with Ji Linjun from Shanghai. Both girls are 183cm tall. They are both strong in personal skills and rich in experience. Although they have not been together for long, they are in perfect unison and cooperate well with each other.

"Not only volleyball, but football and basketball depends heavily on team members' unison, practice, and their coach's guidance. Unison is a kind of spirit interaction. Some players don't develop it even after one or two years together on a team. For beach volleyball, personal skills are quite important. We need to bring into full play in the matches all of our individual skills," said Ji Linjun.

Although Zhang and Ji have played well in the competition so far, they are not satisfied with their performances. "Our conditions are not consistent. One key point is, we tend to be impulsive which causes a lot of misplays," Zhang Ying said. Zhang Zhenxi, Zhang and Ji's coach also agreed that the two girls were facing tough competition over the next three days. "I think the point is to improve ourselves," said Ji.

Furthermore, the two girls expressed their love towards the competition. "We have played in many beach volleyball tournaments abroad. But the sands here in Beijing are softer and more comfortable," Zhang Ying said that sands are important for beach volleyball players. "When I first stepped on these sands, I loved this place immediately. It is a nice place and we'll do our best in the matches," she said.

Baseball tournament starts tomorrow

By Jiang Xubo

The "Good Luck Beijing" 2007 International Baseball Tournament will start tomorrow and continue until next Thursday at the Wukesong Baseball Field in the Wukesong Indoor Stadium (WIS).

It is the first event to be hosted at the baseball stadium. A total of more than 120 players and officials from France, Japan, the Czech Republic, and the host, China, will participate in the event.

The tournament will follow the Olympic baseball competition format, which means 10 games will decide which team will win the gold, silver, and bronze.

In addition, the International Baseball Association will send 50 representatives and officials to the event.

The six-day event, one of the six comprehensive trial events for the Games, will serve as the first trial for the field and its operation, including the cooperation and coordination among the event organizer's different departments such as transportation services, security, news and publicity, and medical services.

The baseball stadium is part of the WIS, which is located near the capital's Western Fifth Ring Road and covers an area of over 14,000 square meters. Its largest field has as many as 12,000 seats.

Construction on the field, which is one of the nine temporary venues for the Games and will host the 2008 Olympic Baseball events, began at the end of 2005, and finished last Sunday.

Archery tournament opens Monday

By Zhao Hongyi

The "Good Luck Beijing" 2007 International Archery Tournament is set to take place from August 20-26.

Twenty-eight FITA (International Archery Federation) member countries and regions have registered to participate in the competition so far, according to the organizer at a press briefing on July 31.

The competitions consist of men's and women's teams and men's individual and women's individual competitions.

To prepare for the competition and the Games, Beijing has built two world-class contest venues and additional training venues in the northern cluster of the Olympic Park neighboring the northern fourth ring road.

The organizer has prepared tickets for sale, ranging in price from 10 to 150 yuan. Interested individuals can purchase online at archery2007.org.cn, or call 64068888, 64069999, or 64170068 for the tickets.

Regatta sails off on Qingdao blue waters

By Han Manman

On Wednesday's first day competition of the 2007 Qingdao International Regatta, six scheduled events were re-scheduled due to weather conditions.

The regatta, which runs from August 9 to 24, is the second trial event for the 2008 Olympic sailing events. The event will honor the Olympic standard by allowing each country or region just one entry for each event.

Only two events, 49ER and 470 Women, set sail despite weak winds. Iker Martinez/Xabier, the gold medalists of the Athens Olympics, finished on top after the first race in 49ER.

In the 470 Women's, Elise Rechichi/Tessa Parkinson from Australia, who are extremely fast in light air, captured first place after the initial race.

The regatta runs from August 9 to 24 and features 11 events in nine classes. A total of 387 sailors from 49 countries and regions are participating in the event being held in the Qingdao Olympic Sailing Center.

Goran Peterson, president of the International Sailing Federation (ISAF), thanked the Qingdao Sailing Committee (SSCQD) for their excellent preparations for the 2007 International Regatta on Sunday.

"ISAF is very impressed by the first-rate regatta preparations. The venue is outstanding and all the plans are proceeding well," said Peterson.

Qingdao, a port city in east China's Shandong Province, will be the venue for the sailing competition for the 2008 Olympics.

Top athletes compete for slalom open

By Huang Daohen



French athlete competed for the semi-final yesterday.

Photo by Wang Peng

The "Good Luck Beijing" 2007 Canoe/Kayak Slalom Open started yesterday at the Shunyi Olympic Rowing-Canoeing Park and will continue until Sunday.

To date, about 110 athletes from 25 countries and regions have applied for

participation in the Beijing event. Among the 105 athletes who have registered are the top 10 paddlers in each of the individual events, including Tony of France, Olympic champion in the men's C-1 at Athens 2004, and Martiken of Slovakia, who currently tops the world rankings.

This time, the Chinese national team has sent a total of 35 Chinese athletes to the contest. "The overall ranking of the Chinese team now sits at 10 in the world. Breakthroughs may be made in individual events, but we still lag far behind the stronger teams," Xin Qunying, deputy director of the Water Sports Administrative Center, said.

According to Xin, the tickets for the event now have all sold out since the Canoe/kayak slalom is one of the most spectacular events at the Olympics.

BMX will be held in Laoshan

By Annie Wei

Next Monday and Tuesday, the newly-constructed Laoshan BMX Venue will host its maiden international event – the "Good Luck Beijing" 2007 UCI BMX Supercross World Cup.

There will be 128 athletes from 27 countries all over the world coming together for the competition. As one of the legs of the 2007 UCI BMX World Cup, the event gathers together all the top athletes.

According to Meng Jiadong, president of China Bicycle Association, it is the first

time in the history of the Olympic Games that BMX is part of the Olympic sports program and the Laoshan Venue is the first standard Olympic BMX venue.

Located at Shijingshan District in West Beijing, the bowl-shaped Laoshan BMX Venue covers an area of almost 2 hectares, has a floor space of over 3,300 square meters and contains over 3,300 seats.

The track is about 300 meters long, featuring an eight-meter high start ramp with two individual straight-aways (for men and women).

Road cycling to hit city

By Gan Tian

The Good Luck Beijing 2007 International Road Cycling Invitational Race kicks off tomorrow. Having invited National (Regional) Teams and International Cycling Union (UCI) Continental Teams from five continents, the race will travel along the Road Cycling course of the Beijing Olympic Games 2008.

At 1pm tomorrow, the Men's Mass Start Road Race, 174 kilometers, will begin. From 1:30pm to 5pm, the day after tomorrow, the Men's Individual Time Trial, 23.8 kilometers, commences. Points will be awarded according to UCI Rules.

The course, with a distance of 174 kilometers for the Mass Start Road Race, will start at Yongdingmen Gate, the

former front gate of the outer section of Beijing's old city wall. Then, it will pass several famous scenic spots, including the Temple of Heaven Park, Tian'anmen Square, Yonghegong (Lama Temple), the Temple of Earth Park, Beijing Olympic Tower and the Summer Palace. Later, it follows the Badaling Express Highway and enters suburban Beijing. The total distance is about 79 kilometers. The riders need to complete four laps of 23.8 kilometers before reaching the finish line. The circuit swings around the Badaling and Juyongguan sections of the Great Wall.

The Individual Time Trial will be held on the finish circuit of the Mass Start Road Race around the Badaling and Juyongguan Sections.



Chinese boardsailor Zhou Yuanguo competed in the Wednesday's RSX Men's.

Photo by Apple Cui

Comment

By Chu Meng

Hong Kong is on course to stage an "absolutely fabulous" Olympic equestrian event next year. I am very happy with the preparations. I have spoken with the riders and they are very happy. Everything is progressing well and we will have an absolutely fabulous Games here next year.

— IOC President, Jacques Rogge

The facilities are ready to host the games, but we hope for better weather. We have many suggestions for the organizing committee to go through later in our briefings after the test event has finished.

— HRH Prince Haya Bint Al Hussein, the President of the International Equestrian Federation

The course is very twisty and winding and very up and down, so it was difficult to find a good rhythm. Considering the amount of rain, I was very impressed at how good the ground was. The facilities here are second to none. The organizers are doing an unbelievably good job

— Frank Ostholt, a member of Germany's winning World Championship team in 2006 and a current gold medal winner

It was almost like being at the actual Olympics itself. We have been able to test the ground and other things and also had the opportunity to test out the emergency and contingency plans.

In spite of the weather, we are satisfied with the results. A tropical storm forced a slight delay to both the dressage and cross-country phases although it did not affect the overall competition. We have one year to prepare and I am confident the test event will be good preparation for the Olympics.

— Martin Plewa, the chief judge for the test event, giving the Hong Kong organizers top marks

Special effort was made to cool the horses down after every major workout. Forty tons of ice cubes were used yesterday on the Cross Country. The riders' major interest was the effect heat and humidity had on their horses. Most found that the animals took the extreme weather conditions better than the humans.

— Ridley William, director of racing of the committee, Hong Kong Jockey Club

The horses arrived between July 28 and August 2; they maintained hydration and ate well. The organization is running smoothly and no major unexpected problems have arisen. And all the facilities in Sha Tin and Beas River Olympic Venues are of Olympic standard. Humidity and rain are out of the question for the horses.

— Connell William, the British team leader

Learning about Hong Kong and 2008 Olympics

By Chu Meng

It's been interesting seeing and experiencing how Hong Kong's two Olympic Equestrian venues fared in the test event competitions, learning about the round-up services and arrangements for the Olympic Games, collecting data for international riders and learning about

how heat and humidity affect their horses.

The Hong Kong Jockey Club, which is financing the construction of both the Sha Tin and Beas River sites, where most of the events will take place, spent HK\$800 million to provide world-class venues and facilities for the Olympics.



Organizing committee staff members are redecorating the jumping course after the cyclone passed Hong Kong.

World-class venues

While there's still plenty to be done, a lot has already been achieved and a working plan is in place that is right on target. The men are working at least six days a week, ten hours a day to ensure everything meets the planned timeframe.

The Hong Kong Jockey Club is the venue provider for the 2008 Olympics and Paralympics Equestrian events. It provides facilities for all three events of the Equestrian program, which consists of Show Jumping, Dressage and Event (three-day event) competitions.

Construction includes the modification of the Hong Kong Sports Institute (HKSI) and Penfold Park to provide an Olympic complex, main competition arena, and training arena, which will accommodate the Dressage and Show Jumping events. The Club will also provide facilities at the Hong Kong Golf Club and the Beas River Country Club for the cross-country section of the Event competition.

In the Sha Tin and Beas River venues, the facilities have set new world standards in terms of quality, environmental consideration, cost effectiveness and legacy value. Moreover, the project has been achieved, from initial planning to completion, within the remarkably short time of less than two years.

In keeping with the goal of a "Green Olympics," the Club has used environmentally friendly materials where feasible. For instance, rubber crumbs were recycled from old tires for the internal equine walkways, and some jumps were made from recycled telegraph poles. In the stables, the lighting and air-conditioning systems offer energy savings of up to 30 percent over conventional systems.

Veterinary clinic & quarantine

The equestrian event is the only Olympic item combining humans and animals, and a veterinary expert team is one of the most important elements for the test competition. This time, the Hong Kong Jockey Club has made available the services of its horse transportation floats, Equine Hospital and Racing Laboratory, one of FEI's four recognized reference laboratories worldwide.

The club offers its modern fleet of 10 horse transportation floats that together can carry 99 horses at any one time. Hong Kong has recognized equine importation and exportation health protocols, which enable horses to be temporarily imported from and exported to about 17 countries. It will only take the fleet 30 minutes to travel from the airport to the stables.

The quarantine situation is not new to Hong Kong because of the many horse races that take place in and out of the country. For the Games, there will be a 7+10 plan put into effect with seven days of quarantine before horses leave home and ten days after they arrive in Hong Kong.

It's a bit more complex with horses that have to spend 60 days in an approved country before they can be exported to Hong Kong. There will also be separation of no less than 100 meters between horses during their quarantine time.

The club also provides a total of 270 air-conditioned stables at the main competition venue including a purposely-built Main Stabling Complex containing 200 stables in four stable blocks.

Security management

As only a small-scale test event of the Olympics, the security inspection was not as strict as it will be at the real Games. On the first two days, local media even blamed the police force for weak security inspection practices. For example, people successfully brought knives or bottled water into the venues. A foreign spectator smoked in the Beas River Venue, but no security staff stopped him.

Hong Kong Police Commissioner Tang King-shing said, "I have to acknowledge that Hong Kong police still lack experience in dealing with major world sports events. However, we are learning quickly. Hong Kong police have, time and time again, invited foreign experts to give lectures on the issue, and we also sent officers to the 2006 Torino Winter Olympic Games and Doha Asian Games to learn about security work."

Transportation

The Sha Tin and Beas River venues are only 20 minutes apart from each other. For those of us who have never covered the Olympics before, this news is very welcome. In addition, housing is equally as close, so there won't be the necessity of traveling hours to get to where we need to be, which for us media experts just might mean a bit more sleep.

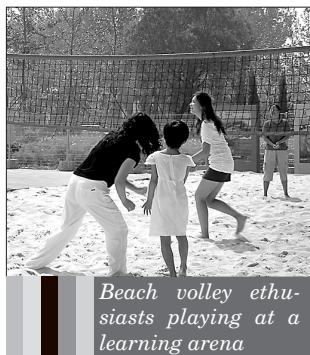
Both of the venues provide no parking areas for private vehicles, and very limited parking for working staff. But the city's prosperous and mature rail system helped people get to both venues within one hour wherever they lived in Hong Kong, thus efficiently avoiding traffic jams and heavy pedestrian flow during the competition period. Sha Tin venue is a ten-minute bus ride away from Sha Tin Rail Station. Beas River venue is twenty minutes away from Fen Ling Rail Station. Free shuttle buses wait at both of the stations, transporting visitors, media staff and officials from the stations to the venues every five minutes. After competitions finished, shuttles buses dispersed bulk visitor flow within half an hour.



An international rider and his horse are battling in the second day's cross-country competition in Beas River Venue.

Photos by Brook Wang

Beach volleyball grounds in the sunshine



Beach volley enthusiasts playing at a learning arena

By Jackie Zhang

Surrounded by green trees, various flowers and plants, the beach volleyball field prepares for next year's Olympic Games and is being tested through the Good Luck Beijing 2007 FIVB (International Volleyball Federation) Beach Volleyball Women's Challenger which started on Monday.

Special selected sands, re-used factory workshops, volunteers and security staff have all been well prepared and are waiting for examination and evaluation. As a test event for the coming Olympic Games, the organizing committee of the event have a perfect opportunity to discover the disadvantages of the competition field and make improvements.

Venue & sands

By Jackie Zhang

The beach volleyball field was constructed on the site of the former Beijing Gas Appliances Factory. People can still see the large, rusty transfer gantries, the round gas storage bottles and the old red brick workshops.

"While we were designing the competition field, we kept the old trees, transfer gantries and gas storage bottles on the factory site. We also left in place three factory workshops built in the 1950s, 1970s and 1980s and transformed them into special rooms for VIP's, players, organizing committee staff and a media headquarters. It helped us reduce the total cost," Yu Yongbo, the main designer of the competition field, said. "We discovered an old temple on the factory site, as well. It was discovered that the temple was built at the end of the Ming Dynasty (1368-1644). It was situated near the field." Most of the plants on the site remain. More traditional plants in Beijing like sunflowers and cogon have been planted around the field, too.

Sands are the most important element for the beach volleyball competition. Different from cities near the sea, Beijing is an inland city. The sands in the field were specially selected from Yangjiang City in Guangdong Province and Danzhou City and Dongfang City in Hainan Province. Being specially transported and protected, these sands have not only helped save costs, but also have been praised by most of

the players.

"I heard that this sand was transported from Hainan. It must be expensive," said Beh Shun thing from Malaysia, "We care very much if there are stones or leaves in the sands. It will influence our performances in the matches and hurt our feet. But I don't need to worry about this field."

The Canadian player, Line Jomphe, said she got used to the sands easily and quickly. "Compared with beaches near the sea, the sands here are soft. Although it may be hard for us to jump, it is comfortable to run on this sand when you get used to it," she said.

Blair Harrison from FIVB has been to different beach volleyball competition fields at many of the previous Olympic Games in different countries. "Compared with the fields in Athens and Sydney, the competition field in Beijing is different. It's located in the center of the city, with green plants and surrounding lakes. There is beautiful scenery and nice facilities. It is a magnificent venue here," Harrison said.

There are two special areas prepared for spectators to experience the competition aside from what's happening on the professional field. The sands of the same quality are provided in two areas. Visitors are allowed to walk on it and learn how to play beach volleyball. Usually, when professional players are competing on the field, visitors are playing amateur volleyball matches outside in the learning areas.

Security

By Xie Fei

In order to maintain security, the organizing committee has set up more than 200 cameras in the field and the special control room, monitoring on a 24-hour basis. There are three security check entrances, five check machines, ten security doors and a special vehicle-examining lane. About 500 staff members working three shifts do the work.

Before I passed through the stadium entrance, a volunteer asked me to remove all metal objects, like glasses and watches, etc. There was a bottle of water in my bag. I had to drink some to prove it was safe and then I was allowed to pass the security gate. Moreover, if someone takes a camera, he must take a photo to be checked by security. A volunteer from Beijing Information and Technology University says that they all received extensive, lengthy training before being hired.

The beach volleyball athletes come from the United States, Rene Cleary said, "I love playing beach volleyball in Beijing. The organizing committee excels in the field of security, especially the volunteers who left me with a very positive impression."

Lodging and board

By Yao Jia

Most of the athletes and the referees said they were satisfied with the food provided in the restaurants. But as far as I could see, there was no place for visitors to have a meal in the park except one shop selling snacks and small orders. And most of the time, the supply was very limited.

According to the manager of the Yongan Hotel, which is the appointed hotel for the participants of the games, there are 48 athletes staying in the hotel, 24 teams from 13 different areas. The athletes make up about one fifth of the clients in the hotel. The food is mainly western-style to benefit the foreign athletes. The hotel itself is at a three-star level but the manager says they are trying to up it to a four-star level for the athletes and provide special prices for the Olympic Committee.

Volunteers

By Yao Jia

On the first day of the game, I was so excited. I went to Chaoyang Park early in the morning. All the way from my school to the park, instructional signs can be seen wherever there is a crossing. When I arrived at the east gate of the park, I found it was so different from usual due to a lot of people with cards waiting there and smiling. With the phrase, "do you need any help" being the most common sentence you'll hear whenever a volunteer is close by.

When it comes to the quality of the volunteers, I would say it's very high. As far as I know, they come from different kinds of universities in Beijing and they need to pass a written exam, as well as, an interview to obtain their position. And according to them, only ten are chosen as volunteers out of over 200 students.

The volunteers always receive high praise from visitors especially volunteers offering huge bottles of water.

Comment

By Xie Fei / Yao Jia



To ensure the testing competition and the Olympics go off without a hitch is our responsibility. I am very proud of that.

— Yu Dan from China Mobile



Beijing is extremely beautiful and all of the people have been very kind and helpful. The stadium is an amazing venue in which to play. The sand is very good quality. I like the weather in Beijing.

— Renee Cleary, athlete from California, US



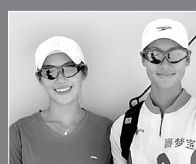
"I think, despite the so-called Economic Olympics, the stadium is very good in contrast to some of the US stadiums. The game is really well organized. The sand is of high standard, the instructional signs can be seen everywhere, the volunteers are very passionate and, when it comes to the hotels, the food is delicious. On the whole, everyone does an excellent job!"

— Ryan Macdowew, a referee from the US



We were all excited because we won the game yesterday and defeated the US team. We try to do our best in every match. The stadium is the best one that I have ever seen.

— Ma Yuanyuan and Zhangdan, athletes from Shandong Province



I played beach volleyball when I was in grade six in elementary school. We like playing at night, because we feel more enthusiastic in the evening.

— Lin Donghe and Lin Xianling, athletes from Fujian Province



Girlie volunteers dancing on beach at the opening ceremony

CFP Photos

By Gan Tian

By *Gan Tian*

With the musical *Mamma Mia* coming to Beijing, a taste of the 70s is dancing into the city. The musical contains everything you can imagine – singing, dancing, acting, family, love, nostalgia and fashion that will start your heart pounding. From the masses, *Beijing Today* gives you eight keywords from *Mamma Mia* that will help you understand the show in every way.

ABBA history

Unlike other musicals, *Mamma Mia!* is in place before the story. *Mamma Mia!* is one of Swedish pop quartet, ABBA's, most famous songs. All the songs in the musical feature ABBA's popular hits from the 70's. Judy Craymer, who once was a producer of

Judy Craymer, who once was a producer of the Broadway show, *Cats*, believed all ABBA's music could be put into one show once she heard them. She found playwright, Catherine Johnson, to write the story, and that is how ABBA's music turned into this global hit musical. The Swedish pop quartet was formed in 1972, winning the Eurovision Song

The Swedish pop quartet was started in 1972, winning worldwide success during the 70s. The name is an acronym formed from the first letters of the members' names: Benny Andersson and Bjorn Ulvaeus and their girlfriends Anni-Frid Lyngstad and Agnetha Faltskog. The group has sold more than 370 million records and still is one of the most popular groups in the world today.



Donna (middle) and her friends at encore

Translation

Translation

"To deliver the British joke was difficult, but I saw all the audience laugh that the translation screen was working. I know what it meant," Katie Brayben, Sophie's mother, said.

The little boy Pepper has a crush on a middle-aged, sexy woman. He gives saying she is the one he has been looking for. "You look like Liu Xiaoqing!" Liu Xiaoping, who looks like Liu Xiaoqing! "Liu Xiaoping," a middle-aged actress who is also sexy, says everyone understands the meaning of her name. "Xiao Pi Ha'er," she says to them. "Xiao Pi Ha'er," she says to them. "Xiao Pi Ha'er," she says to them. "Xiao Pi Ha'er," she says to them.

The set

The set

The story takes place on a Greek island, where Donna is going to attend her daughter Sophie's marriage but Sophie invites three possible fathers to her wedding and hilarity ensues.

To create the typical Greek island setting, the stage is designed as a hotel, a beach, and a pub. How do these appear on one stage without mistakes? Robin Francis, the manager of *Mamma Mia* Beijing Touring, revealed the secret, "We have brought along all the equipment from our country – the sections are just like a jigsaw puzzle, you piece it together in different ways and you get different images."

When the two big pieces of white building are erected, the stage gives the audience the illusion of a warm beach and seaside. When they are reversed, you see the interior of a pub.



Sky and his friends

Mamma Mia

Where:
Poly Theater
When:
Until August 19
Admission:
280-1,280 yuan
Tel: 8528 2222

**Photos provided by
CPAA-Century**

British humor

When asked whether the show is international, Carolanne Weidle, in the main role, said, "Oh, *Mamma Mia* is very British. You hear many British jokes throughout."

Besides the casts' British accent, the jokes are a big part of the production. When one of the possible fathers gives Donna, the mother, a bill to cover all the wedding's expenses, Donna refuses, saying, "but that could cover four weddings," the entire audience laughs, and then she adds, "and a funeral!"

The cast itself has a great sense of humor. When one actor introduced himself in the press conference, he said, "Hello everybody, I am Tim English and I am English!" Everybody laughed and checked his real name to discover that "English" really is his surname.

Mother's role

Butler's role

The relationship between mother and daughter, a constant underlying theme that carries the story along, mother, doesn't know the identity of the daughter. She works alone, raising Sophie on her own, and thinks she is a super woman.

Actress Weidle, also played the mother in the first movie, says she has some different

are some differences between me and Donna," she certainly knows my children's father!" The similarity them, according to Weidle herself, is that they are independent and strong.

"The touring is tough work. I don't have tried to see them grow up."

Weidle has three children—two sons and one daughter. "I have two kids, six and four, and I know they need time." When Weidle was talking of how she balanced work and family, she seemed to be missing her children very much, turning down her head, looking into her coffee with her eyes wavering a little.

"The touring is tough work. I don't have tried to see them grow up."

Weidle has three children—two sons and one daughter. "I have two kids, six and four, and I know they need time." When Weidle was talking of how she balanced work and family, she seemed to be missing her children very much, turning down her head, looking into her coffee with her eyes wavering a little.

"The touring is tough work. I don't see my family very often. I have tried to see them every two weeks, but that's not easy. Weidle has tried hard to stay with her family as much as possible. I love my kids, and I have brought them with me here to Europe a little."

Mamma Mia in Beijing

Reaction

When every show comes to China, it is greeted by the same question, "Can Chinese audiences understand and accept it easily?" This is not a problem for *Mamma Mia*. All the low-priced tickets have sold out, which definitely proves the popularity of the musical. Weidie herself confirmed this fact when she was singing in Shanghai and on Beijing's stages, "Everyone was singing along during the show. They showed great respect and emotional moments, as well, just like everywhere we toured with the show in other countries."

You should always keep in mind: go to the show with someone who understands it and loves it. *Mamma Mia* is such a musical that those who love it will love it to death, but those who think it's only so-so will give it no response at all.

Darren Liu, a journalist, shared his experience, "I was there, alone. The girl sitting next to me looked pretty, but she didn't know even one song. When I was singing along with the cast, she gave me a nasty look as if I was showing off my English! I don't know whether she was even looking at the translation screen. And what's worse, when the cast was doing its encore, she didn't even stand up! That was really a disaster!"

Encore

Mamma Mia, *Dancing Queen* and *Waterloo* have been the encore songs since the musical's birth. Some careful readers will note that, *Mamma Mia* and *Dancing Queen* have both appeared in the former musical, but *Waterloo* hasn't – so why put this song in the encore?

The reason is that the song has its own special meaning. It was ABBA's first UK No 1 single and reached No 6 on the Billboard Hot 100 chart in 1980, paving the way for the very first album of their fantastic music career.

Usually, when the musical ends, all the cast comes back onto the stage to sing the most famous ABBA's songs. This singing performance is shortened to about six minutes. This time the audience joins in with the cast, singing, dancing and applauding. In Universal's *Mamma Mia* CD, the applauding and singing from the audience is also recorded into the bonus tracks, which means that the audience becomes part of the show.

The 70s

In Beijing's debut last Tuesday, you could feel the warmth of the Greek island. The audience was moved by the casts' passion about life, love, and the "good old days". To completely describe the 70s in this little paragraph is an impossible mission. We always say the "good old days" because that's what the 70's era was like.

Wikipedia gives an exact description of that time in history saying, "In the Western world, the focus shifted from the social activism of the 60s to simply social activities for one's own pleasure, such as cocaine-fuelled, hedonistic all-night parties at discotheques and swinging parties."

The 70s was marked in music history because it saw a rise in many styles of music. Many legendary rock bands started their careers and won their popularity during that time. ABBA was one of them. Other famous groups included the Eagles and Queen. For softer pop music, there was The Carpenters.

With the last fading notes of *Waterloo*, you couldn't help but feel a little bit sad. Yes, the "good old days" have gone. All we have left now is struggling and surviving in the steel and iron city. So, it's back to work, when *Mamma Mia*'s curtain goes down.



the Dancing Queen

Chinese translation? Can Chinese audiences laugh? The Chinese audience is laughing, and I knew even though I didn't who plays the daughter

Donna's friend, Tanya, his heart to the lady, saying for, "I love girls" and pretty. Suddenly and laughs out loud. The little boy is suitable for the boy. Beijing citizens all teasing and contemptible



daughter is the important. Donna, the mother's real father. I everybody

children. "There he said, "I city between all very

ed me at this her family much – voice

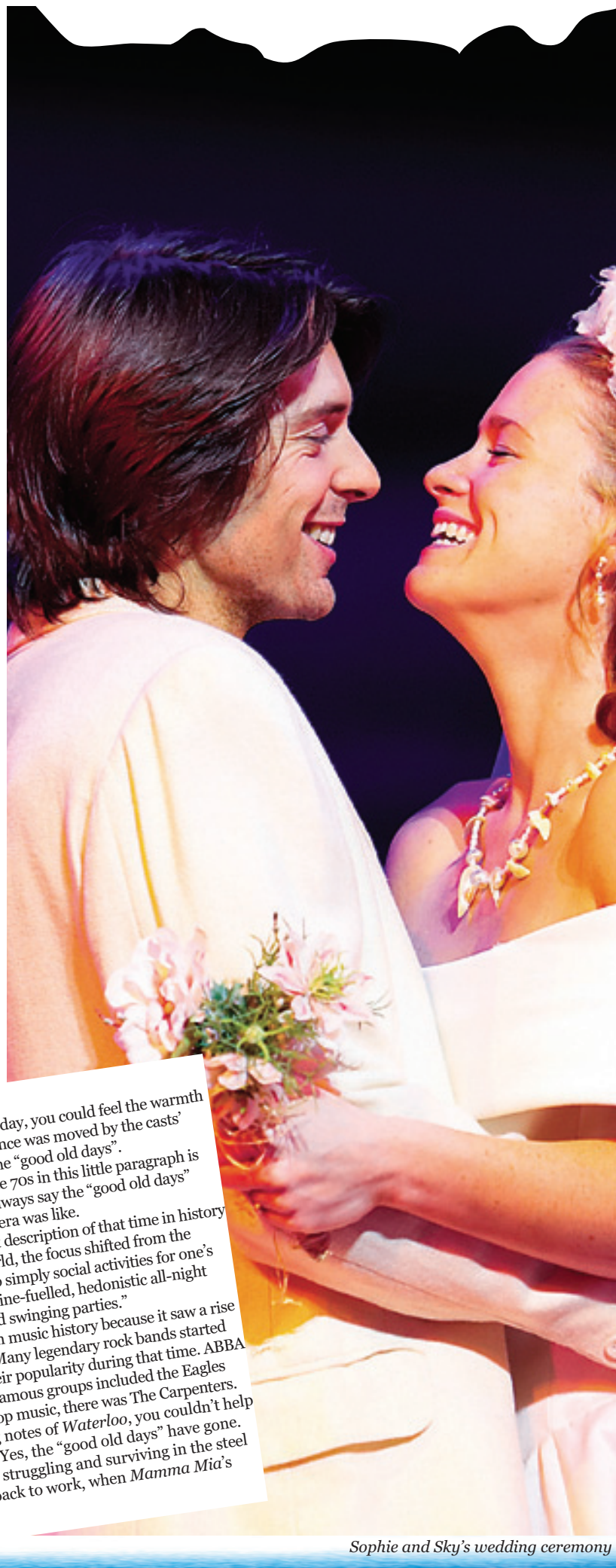
y often. ough." possible, Beijing."



Donna (right) and her friends are recalling the good old days.

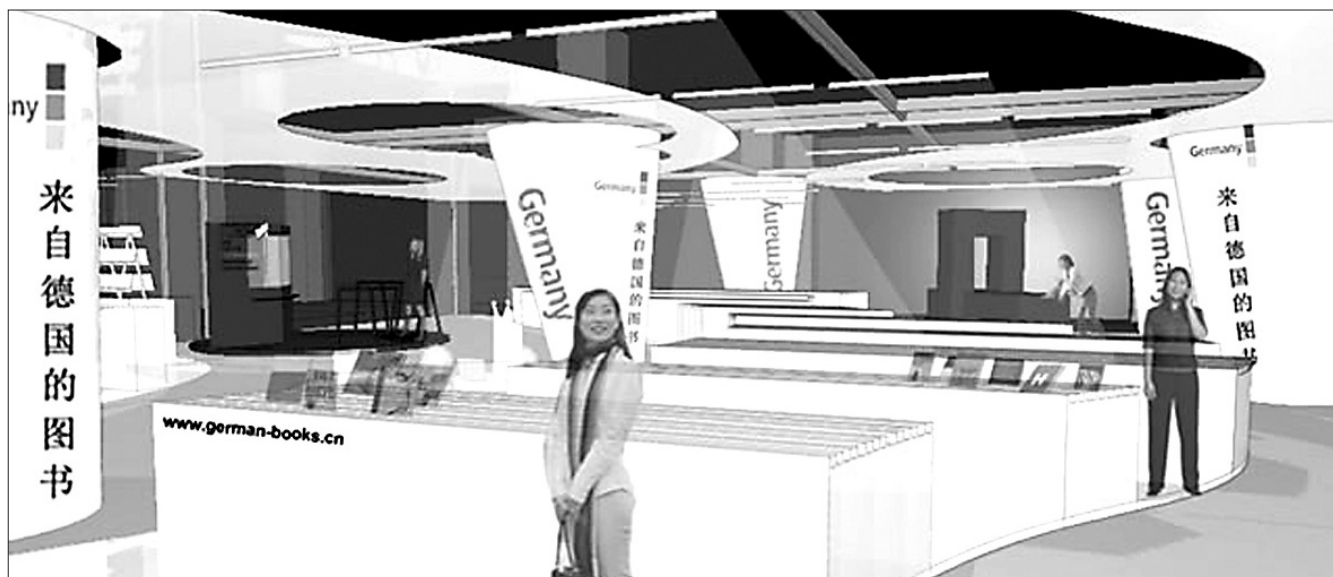


Sophie's three possible dads are talking about her wedding.



Sophie and Sky's wedding ceremony

International book fair ready to open



Germany's book booth is large enough for fair-bound visitors.

By Han Manman

The 14th Beijing International Book Fair will be held at China International Exhibition Center from August 30 to September 3.

The fair-grounds will span Hall 1 and Hall 8 of the center, and Germany will participate in the fair as the Country of Honor. The 2007 BIBF will continue to expand and improve the special shows for periodicals, children's books and the rights center. The organizers will set up exhibition areas for printing, cultural products and the new technology industry, including electronics, audio-visual displays, cartoons, comics, software, the Internet and music.

So far, as many as 1,200 exhibition booths have been reserved by 530 Chinese publishers and 920 international

publishers from 56 countries, including top names like John Wiley, Elsevier and Springer. This year will be the first to see publishers from Bengal, Oman, South Africa, the United Arab Emirates, Azerbaijan and Uzbekistan participate.

Special

The 14th Beijing International Book Fair will feature a children's book show area as a platform for various business exchanges between Chinese and overseas children's publishers. Symposiums and forums on the developing trends of global children's publications will be held. Seminars will be organized to analyze the current status and developing potentials of children's publishing with experts giving thematic reports. Various cultural activities concerning children's publications and

cultural exchanges will be held during the BIBF.

The exhibition area

The exhibition area for the 2007 BIBF includes Hall 1 and Hall 8 as follows:

Hall 1-C: Asian book publishers, including publishers from Hong Kong, Macau and Taiwan

Hall 1-D: Country of honor and European book publishers

Hall 1-E: Children's book show and new technology industry show (electronics, software, Internet, music, audio-visual displays and cartoons and animation)

Hall 1-F: Printing and cultural products, periodicals show and rights center

Hall 8-B: UK, US and other international book publishers

Hall 1-A, Hall 1-B, Hall 8-A: Book publishers from China

Calendar

August 28, Beijing International Publishing Forum

August 28-29, 9am-5pm, On-Site Registration & Exhibit Setup

August 29, Evening Opening Reception

August 30, Morning Opening Ceremony

August 30 - September 1, 9am-5pm, Professional Days

September 2-3, 9am-5pm, Public Days

September 3, 5:30pm, Exhibits Closing

Endless story invites readers to join

By Han Manman

Aspiring writers may want to head to the new TheNeverEndingStory website (the neverendingstory.co.uk) to try their hand at writing the next page or verse of stories and poems started by famous authors and site members the world over.

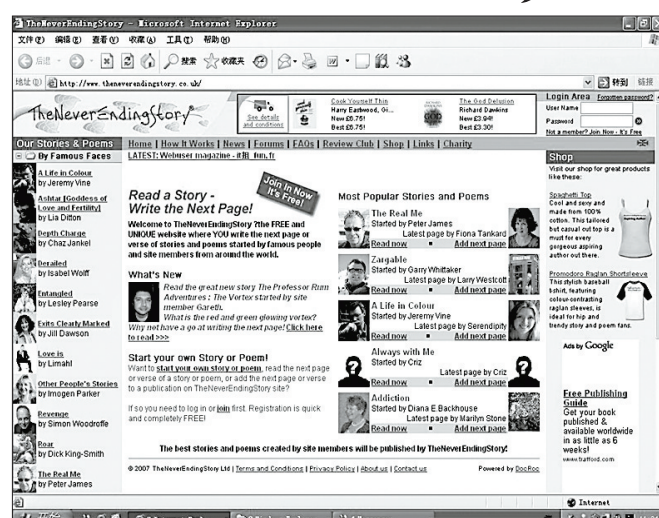
The site is the first of its kind to be launched. The author Joanna Harris, best-known for her romance novel *Chocolat*, started a new story on the Internet, and then stepped back to let amateur writers continue it until it develops into a fully-fledged, published novel.

The site attracts hundreds of visitors from around the world each day, and enables members to start a story and invite others to contribute until it is complete forming a truly collaborative creation. The best stories and poems created by members will be published by the website to aid previously-unpublished authors.

From the initial story, writers submit the next page or chapter, which is then stored in a administrative section of the site. The writer can view all the parts to select which will be the next part of his or her story.

"The website is an exciting new online concept, similar to be a game of 'consequences,' and anyone can join in and have a go," Arup Biswas, founder of the website, said. "The launch ... is a novel online opportunity to build a creative forum and allow our global members to interact with bestselling and aspiring authors, whilst maintaining complete editorial control of their work."

"The site is very interesting as it breaks down the barrier between the professional writer and the amateur writer," Harris, who has made her new story, *Wildfire*, available on the site, said. "There are so many people who write very well on the



Screenshot of the neverendingstory.co.uk

net, and who haven't really had much attention."

Children's writer Dick King Smith, disgraced Conservative peer Jeffrey Archer, crime writer

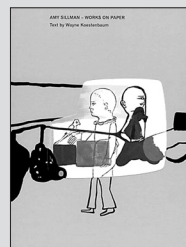
Peter James, BBC journalist Jeremy Vine and authors Isabel Wolff and Lesley Pearse have all recently posted beginnings of stories on the site.

Timezone 8 Recommendations

Timezone 8 is a Hong Kong-based publisher, distributor and retailer of books on contemporary art, architecture, photography and design.

Amy Sillman: Works on Paper

By Wayne Koestenbaum, 126pp, Gregory R. Miller & Company, 440 yuan



This marks the first major publication of noted New York painter Amy Sillman, whose rapidly growing reputation and increasing influence on other artists makes its timing ideal. Her paintings and drawings are narrative and decorative, filled with quirky figures and patterned elements.

Lempicka

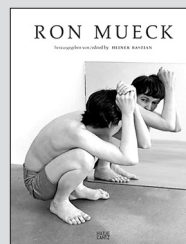
By Emmanuel Breon, 144pp, Flammarion, 375 yuan



A femme fatale to equal Greta Garbo and Mae West, and a fashion icon in her own lifetime, this exhibition catalog is dedicated to the artist as well as the concept of the modern woman she represented. Divided into three sections, the book focuses on her distinctive artistic style, and on her fascination with the female form, which she glorified in paintings such as her famous "Portrait of a Young Girl in a Green Dress."

Ron Mueck: Catalogue Raisonné

By Ron Mueck, 88pp, Hatje Cantz Publishers, 248 yuan



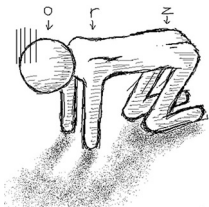
Ron Mueck, the hyper-realistic sculptor, learned his craft from making models and puppets for television and movies. The human presence and perfection of detail in Mueck's work, the realism and mysterious, transfigured quality of his figures garnered immediate international attention.

Timezone 8

Where: Timezone 8 Art Books, No 4 Jiuxianqiao Lu, Chaoyang Open: 10am-8pm Tel: 8456 0336

(By He Jianwei)

Online language, orz

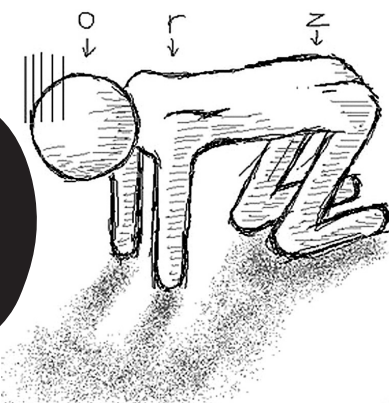


By He Jianwei
"3Q d orz!"

Understand that? You're not alone. Net-speak is a growing trend among China's younger generation of cyber-citizens, many of whom speak entirely in what, at first glance, appears to be the malicious stomplings of a cat on a keyboard. Incidentally, the message was "Thank you sincerely." The abbreviation-laden lingo has spread to text messages.

Actually, the same thing has hap-

pened in English, and variations of "l33t" have spread through online games and onto mobile devices like a virus. Some love it, and others hate it, but regardless of your personal feelings, it's good to understand so you can read your inbound SMS messages. Sometimes that garbage isn't just your phone's inability to display Chinese correctly.



What is Marsspeak?

Huo Xing Wen, literally Marsspeak, is a writing style in wide use on the Internet by now grown-up 80s kids. It is a mixture of traditional Chinese characters, English and oral language translated into the Internet and random symbols.

Because it's difficult to read for those unfamiliar with China's cyber-culture, it has been dubbed Marsspeak, similar to English speakers dubbing anything not written in Latin characters as "Moonspeak." The abbreviations originated in Taiwan Province during the last few years, and have reached such a frightening level of acceptance as to have appeared on Taiwan's college entrance exams.

Via the pop culture vehicles of Internet and TV, Marsspeak has sailed across the straits and onto the mainland. Younger kids fire off MSN and Tencent QQ messages in Marsspeak, and use it to chat on the Internet and even blog.

Deciphering Marsspeak

Marsspeak can mainly be divided into four categories: hieroglyphics, mock sounds, combining characters and using elements from a "mistakenly-written" character.

Hieroglyphics

Some words in Marsspeak are pictographs which represent the meaning of the words, such as "orz."

"orz" began as a Japanese emoticon representing a kneeling or bowing person, with "o" being the head, the "r" being the arms and part of the body, and the "z" being part of the end of the body and legs. This "stick" figure represents failure and despair.

The stick figure has grown in meaning to represent great admiration-sometimes spiked with sarcasm-for someone else's words or action. This meaning is

most adopted in Chinese online communities.

Mock sounds

Marsspeakers use Arabic numerals and Latin letters to stand in for characters with similar sounds, for example, using the digit "4" to stand in for *si*, death, or *shi*, yes. They also combine in English netspeak such as "u" in place of "you."

Combining characters

Chinese characters are usually constructed from several elements, or radicals. In Marsspeak, writers break up characters into several pieces, so a character like *qiang* (强) could be written as the characters *gong* and *sui* (弓虽). Readers reassemble the parts to figure out what character was intending to say.

Mistakenly-written

The exact opposite is done with these characters, where the intended character is embedded within another. At first glance, it looks like someone just made a careless typo. In fact, an element they intended the reader to look at is present in the character, and it is up to the reader to figure out which. One example would be using the character for hunger, *e* (饿) to stand in for the character for oneself, *wo* (我).

Common Marsspeak phrases

Using letters

i becomes *ai* (love)

t becomes *ti* (kick)

r becomes *a* (ah)

p becomes *pi* (s--t)

Using numerals

0 - *mei you* (without)

2 - *e* (hungry) or *er* (son)

3 - *shan* (mountain) or *shan* (delete)

5 - *wu* (none)

7 - *qu* (go)

Variations of orz

orz - speaker is a child

OTZ - speaker is an adult

or2 - speaker has a sexy butt

orZ - speaker has a big butt

Orz - speaker has a big head

Xrz - speaker has a crazy hairstyle

prz - speaker has hair down to the ground

Love and hate

As the net dialect spreads, some people have taken serious issue with the "corruption of language," while others have just taken to using it every chance they can.

"This new style of communication is an innovation," Lin Xiaoneng, a founder of Zhang Xiaohe, a popular Chinese net comic, said. He sees the emergence of Marsspeak as an evolution of ancient Chinese into the digital era.

"Understanding the characters alone mandates creative thinking, and without that, life is pretty boring," he said. Still, he doesn't really like the term "Marsspeak," because it does little to convey what the language actually is, he said.

"It is an expression of difference between the younger generation and the older one. We need to be tolerant of this new phenomenon," Zhou Yong, a media man, said.

"It is only popular among a segment of the younger generation, and it's not like this kind of speech will replace daily language," he said.

Li Bai, born in the late 80s, hates Marsspeak. "It would be shameful if I used this kind of language to convey what I think, though I can understand it," he said.

"The constant typing of incorrect characters and use of abbreviations and icons just makes the writers appear lazy," he added.

Changing Chinese into Marsspeak

If you are interested in using Marsspeak, you could try to do some simple substitutions on the following websites:

fantizi.daheiyu.com

qqol.org/Html/QQsoft/04151225899

fantizi.wdnd.cn/switchover/default2.asp

For further reading

Marsspeak:

baike.baidu.com/view/32668.htm

news.sohu.com/s2007/luoxingwen

view.news.qq.com/zt/2007/megeneration/index.htm

Netspeak:

webopedia.com/quick_ref/textmessageabbreviations.asp,

en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Internet_slang,

en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_Internet_slang_phrases

What is netspeak?

Internet slang and its various "dialects," netspeak, AOL-speak, l33t and SMS language, evolved in online messages and were refined when SMS messages became popular. They are abbreviated or symbolic forms of English known as a rebus. With predictive text input increasingly common, the SMS variant is dying out.

The languages evolved from Internet shorthand used to cut down typing time and keep up with speed in busy chat channels. When SMS debuted with its 160 character limit, more dramatic abbreviations became common to save time and money.

The objective is to use the fewest number of characters needed to put across a comprehensible message. Consequentially, punctuation and grammar are largely ignored.

Deciphering netspeak

Letter replace common words

be becomes b

see becomes c

are becomes r

you becomes u

why becomes y

in becomes n

Single digits replace words

ate becomes 8

for becomes 4

to or too becomes 2

Letter or digit can replace a syllable

ate becomes 8, so:

activate becomes activ8

great becomes GR8

mate becomes m8

later becomes l8r/l8a

plates becomes pl8s

skater becomes sk8r/sk8a

for or Fore becomes 4, so:

before becomes (combining both of the

above) b4

therefore becomes der4

Less common simplifications that take longer to type than the original

ss becomes \$

oo becomes %

'-orr-' becomes '-oz'

For example, "sorry" becomes "soz," and "somorrow" becomes "tomoz," further abbreviated to "2moz" and "2mz."

Combinations of the above can shorten single or multiple words, with "your" and "you" both becoming "ur."

Vowels are removed as long as the sequence of consonants remains the same and the word is recognizable: "between" becomes "btwn," "homework" becomes "hmwk" and "yearbook" becomes "yrbk."

Whole words may be omitted, especially articles.

Punctuation may be removed; only periods and exclamation marks are generally used. The space and capital letter are often omitted after a period.

"/" signifies abbreviation, such as "w/" for "with" and "s/t" for "something."



Nightlife and love in Sanlitun



By Gan Tian

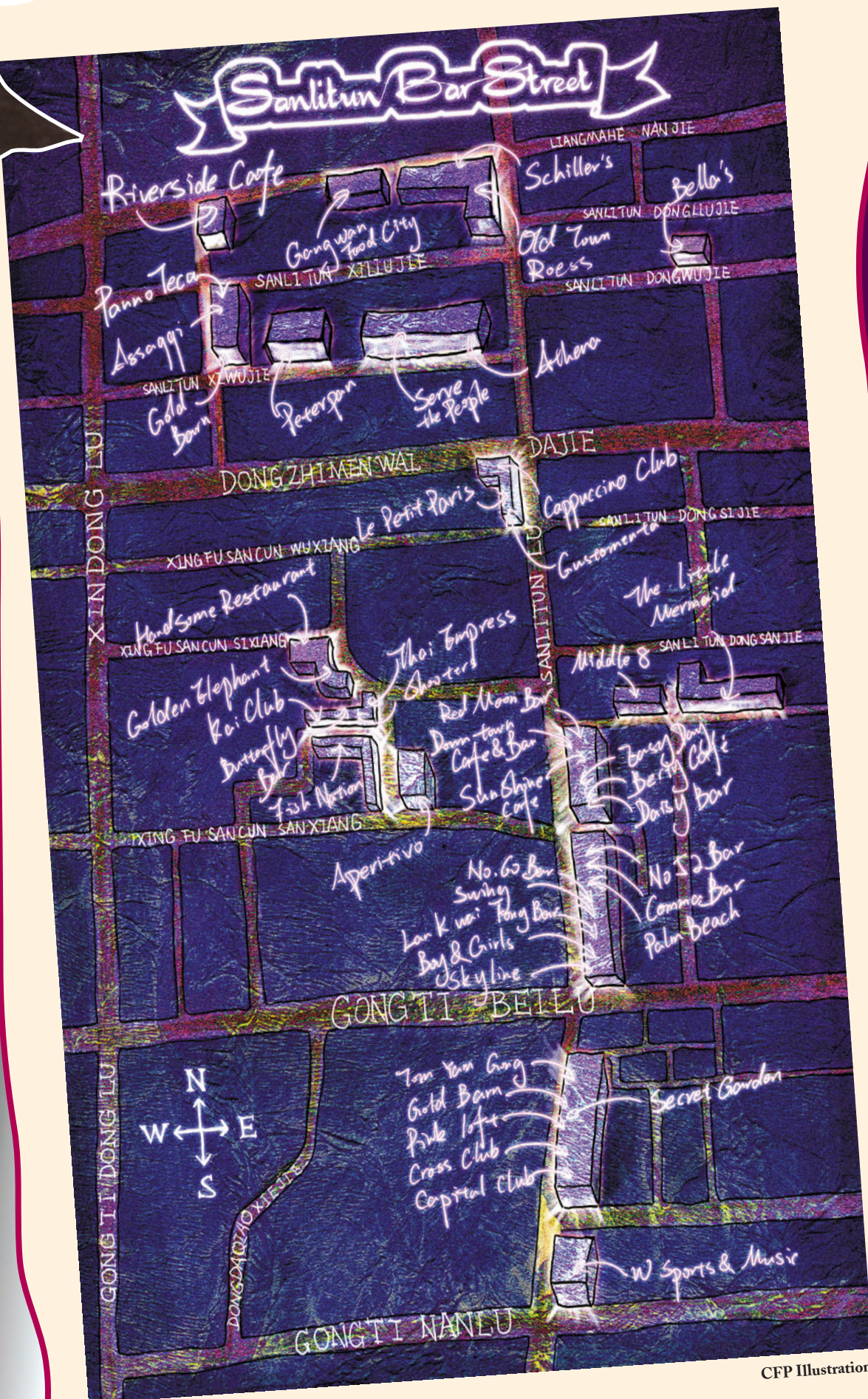
When we say Sanlitun, we always use it as an adjective for "bar street." The name alone conjures up images of pubs, bars, restaurants, discos and boozes that make the area one of Beijing's most-popular bar streets.

Sanlitun gets its name from Dongzhimen Gate. A *tun* is a "locality," and *sanli* means "three li," or 1.5 kilometers from the gate.

In the late 1950s, the government wanted to move the diplomatic district outside the inner city, and Sanlitun was chosen as the spot for foreign legations and embassies. Since then, it has become a top hang-out for foreign expats, who have imbued the area with Westernized tastes and wines, and established numerous fashionable pubs and bars.

The street is most attractive on weekend nights, when the neon lights shine and people of all ethnicities dance and laugh over a background of trendy music and shouts. Even if it's on a weekday, you can still find a quiet bar, sit down and ask for a cup of coffee while you work or read your favorite books.

Observe the street beyond the neon-lit windows, and enjoy the lusty night environment that is Sanlitun.



CFP Illustration

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A "pink Thailand" in Sanlitun

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By Jackie Zhang

The Pink Loft serves Thai dishes. It's a three-story building, decorated mainly in pink. Entering the restaurant, you'll see an attractive crystal pendant lamp hanging over a round pond. The pink light reflects on the water. It is one of the reasons why lots of foreigners like to come to the Pink Loft for dining besides the restaurant's typical dishes and drinks.

The Pink Loft, located near downtown, is decorated typically according to the "loft" standard – high ceilings, exposed pipes and ducts in the ceiling, a great floor plan, floor to ceiling windows, exposed interior brick, stained cement floors as in luxury homes and modern, contemporary furnishings. From the first floor to the third, pink curtains and lights are everywhere. In addition, blue is another color that is used mainly for decoration. "Pink refers to girls and blue refers to boys. This is the concept of the decor," said A Tarntip Noranual, the restaurant manager.

The first floor of the restaurant is



Photo provided by Pink Loft

mainly for reception and viewing scenes. The second and third floors are for dining. You can see sculptures of animals and Buddha. On the third floor, three areas are set aside, especially for group parties.

As a Thailand restaurant, the Pink Loft serves almost all the typical Thailand dishes you can request. Tom Yam Koong soup, Green papaya salad, various curries and special drinks are made from original secret recipes. "Thailand food is famous for its spicy and sour flavor. We can cook dishes at different spice levels depending

on people's tastes. And we also serve ordinary dishes which are not spicy," Noranual said. Sugar Cane is fresh cane juice. It is served all the year round even in winter, when it is unavailable in the markets. "The canes are transported from Thailand. Sugar Cane is a popular juice in the Pink Loft," Noranual said.

Pink Loft

Where: 6, Sanlitun Nan Lu

Open: 11am-1am daily

Tel: 6506 8811

Cost: 80 yuan per person

Cappuccino fans have their day



Photo by Gavin

By Gan Tian

Taiwanese entertainer Elva Hsiao has a famous song titled "Love is Cappuccino," and for her fellow cappuccino fans, Sanlitun is home to an amazing Cappuccino Club.

The Club cuts through two separate spaces. The main hall of the inner room holds about 150 people, and visitors can enjoy snacks and dancing. If the interior is too congested, head outside for a much bigger area. The outdoor space has tables and room for as many as 300 people to eat. It feels like a garden from 18th century England, with black chairs and clean white-and-red tablecloths. Flowers and green trees make it one of the most relaxing environments in the city to sip away at a cup of Columbian

goodness.

Come for the Cappuccino and stay for the Latin, Jazz and Disco music. Black Label, priced at 680 yuan per bottle, or cocktails made by the Club's top bartender offer a spicy alternative to heat up the night.

From 9 to 12pm there are live shows, and from 5 to 8pm the Club offers buy-one-get-one-free beers. Order a steak to get a free glass of wine ... though it's a bit pricey. Even if you are not a Cappuccino fan, it's still a good place to have fun.

Cappuccino Club

Where: No 8, Section A, Dongzhimen Wai Dajie, south corner of Sanlitun Bei Jie

Open: 10am-3am the next day

Tel: 6417 7035, 6413 0006

Cost: 100 yuan per person

A taste of Hong Kong Lan Kwai Fong Bar

By Gan Tian

If you are a fan of Hong Kong, you have surely heard of Lan Kwai Fong. Boasting numerous bars, pubs, clubs and restaurants, it's Hong Kong's most popular area for a night out. This Sanlitun-styled Lan Kwai Fong Bar uses its name to draw in well-off locals, expats and tourists.

Though it looks smaller than other bars, the inner design makes it seem bigger: Walls and doors make the space like a warm-lit labyrinth where you can enjoy Italian cuisine, like Spaghetti Bolognese Noodle or Tuna Fish Salad.

Sirloin Steak is a house recommendation. Of the steaks typically considered to be premium steaks, sirloin is the cheapest, because the muscles still have done quite a bit of work. If you feel your mouth watering at the thought of roast food, try Grilled Beef. Sorry to recommend so much beef, but it's Lan Kwai

Fong's best food.

Wouldn't it be even better if you could enjoy a live show with that steak of beef? You can! Lan Kwai Fong Bar has two bands. From 7-9pm, the bar has live shows. All the guests complain that the lead singer is too hot so they can't concentrate on their meals, and the keyboard player is the kind of Prince Charming who makes all the ladies in the bar wish they were his piano.

Unlike Lan Kwai Fong in Hong Kong, the cost is pretty reasonable. The world won't end if you take your girlfriend here and pay the bill, and it's still a comparably high-class night out. The quality and reputation of this bar is obvious every night.

Lan Kwai Fong Bar

Where: No 66, Sanlitun Bei Jie

Open: 10:30am-3am

Tel: 6417 2589

Cost: 70-100 yuan per person



Photo by Gavin

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Enjoy slow times with your sweetheart this Qixi



Photo provided by Golden Barn

... continued from page 17

By Gan Tian

The third branch of Golden Barn on the Sanlitun Bei Xiaojie is very different from the first two, which specialized in Sichuan food. The taste here is much more international, and you can enjoy a relaxing, old-time feeling.

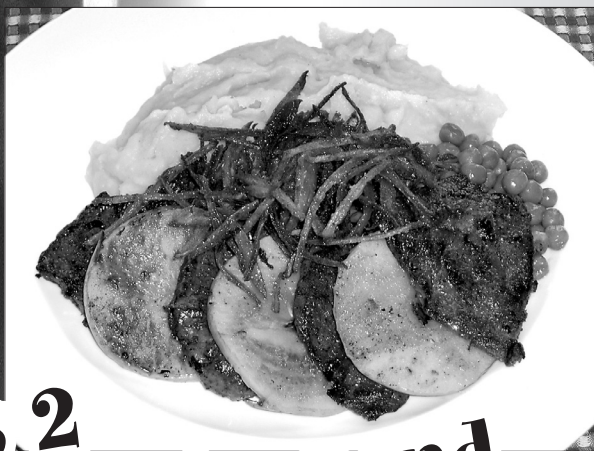
Noisy party animals avoid this place like the plague, so if you're looking for quiet enjoyment, come here. Located in Sanlitun Bei Xiaojie Embassy Area, top-brand cars, blue-eyed beauties and centuries-old trees adorn the exterior. The furniture inside is very Western, "though it still has a very Chinese feeling," Ouyang, the shop owner, said. "It's just like old Shanghai – everything outside is very modern, fast-paced – but you also see *qipao*, Ruan Linyu [a famous actress in 1920s] and Settlement."

Everything here combines Chinese and Western from decorations to the dishes. There are no printed materials available because the owners want to be eco-friendly.

Dishes like Spicy Codfish with Steamed Egg, a Sichuan dish, is baked with added juices, a more Western way of cooking.

Next Sunday is this year's Qixi, Chinese Valentine's Day. No matter whether it is Valentine's Day or Qixi, the Barn always has something special. "Golden times," 666 yuan per couple, is a welcome gift for you and your lover, complete with sparkling wine and an appetizer, cold Sichuan-style Foie Gras or Fresh Squid with Sea Food, Chicken Soup with Mushrooms, and a main course of Grilled King Prawn, Roast Veal with Mushrooms and Fried Broccoli with Flavored Tofu. The dessert of the night is "Nut and Chocolate Cake with Strawberry Sauce" for a fairy tale ending.

It's worth it, right?

Golden Barn**Where:** No 1, Sanlitun Bei Xiaojie**Open:** 10am-11pm**Tel:** 8454 0064**Cost:** 120 yuan per person

Schiller's 2 reasonable prices and rustic atmosphere

By Chu Meng

Meals at Schiller's 2 is a simple affair. If you are in the mood for a straight-up, no-frills lunch or dinner just after work, then look no further.

This is the place for a fried breakfast minus the fear of having to decide which nouvelle cuisine sauce you would like on your eggs. Only the most common, homemade German dishes are served at Schiller's 2.

Zhao Changchun, the Chinese chief chef, who is hospitable and sincere, has more than ten years working experience. Before that he received five years professional training, including three years in Germany.

"It is not a good place for a business lunch. It is a tiny and homey place hidden in a quiet corner along the Liangma River. The restaurant is like an old and rustic friend with whom you are very familiar."

The decor is similar to the food, simple but sufficient. A comfortable German restaurant-bar with an eclectic mix of Amer-

ican knick-knacks adorning the walls, Schiller's 2 is a perfect place to nurse a groggy noggin.

In addition, the place also offers a large selection of German food including a Frankfurter sausages mix, Berlin fried veal with fried apple slices, German grilled pork with mashed potatoes and, of course, the ubiquitous hamburger.

Authentic schnitzel aside, Schiller's 2 also offers possibly the best value-for-your-money beers. You can enjoy a buy-one-get-one-free service between 5pm and 8pm daily. Chef said Weizen and Erdinger Darker are the most popular choices. And Weizen beer can only be found in the German Embassy and Schiller's 2.

Schiller's 2**Where:** 1 Liangmahe South Road**Open:** 9am-1am**Tel:** 6464 9016**Cost:** 80 yuan per person,

Buy-one-get-one-free happy beer hour, daily 5-8pm

Photo provided by Schiller's 2



Photo provided by Peter Pan

New branch of Peter Pan Italian Restaurant chain

By Chu Meng

In the mood for carbo-loading? This new branch of the Peter Pan restaurant chain will start you off with complimentary bread and then offer countless choices of pasta, pizza and risotto. The restaurant makes a mean pepperoni pizza and a tasty tiramisu. Prices are moderate, ranging from 65 yuan for small pizzas and pastas to 120 yuan for beef and veal dishes. Delivery is available.

Few people would know that Peter Pan was opened by the Claudio Bonfatti couple, who are the owners of the famous Agrilandia Italian Farm in Beijing. To Claudio and his Chinese wife, Lu Hongwei, China is a place to make dreams come true.

"China is in a perfect phase for development. As long as you believe in your dreams, you will always have the opportunity to make them come true here," the owners of the Italian restaurants said.

Agrilandia Italian Farm, which used to be the Bonfatti family's weekend retreat, has become a popular vacation site for Beijingers and foreigners. And Bonfatti is poised to make the idea of "Italian agritourism" take root in Beijing.

After their first success, the couple, in 1998, opened their first restaurant, Peter Pan, near the Great Wall Sheraton Hotel. The eating establishment is the capital's second Italian restaurant independent from hotels. Bonfatti's small restaurant became a hit and started to make a profit in less than a year. Then in March, the new branch was opened.

Peter Pan**Where:** Sanlitun Xingfu Sancun South Street**Open:** Daily 11am-11pm**Tel:** 6465 1661

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Nan Sanlitun Lu

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W Sports and Music

From the dishes and drinks to the desserts and décor, here is pure north European style.

Where: 120, Nan Sanlitun Lu
Open: 10am-2am daily
Tel: 6595 8039
Cost: 50 yuan per person

Capital Club

The only club in Sanlitun targeting business activities; an imaginary heaven of entertainment.

Where: Nan Sanlitun Lu, south of Cross Club
Open: 4am-2am daily
Tel: 8592 2751
Cost: 100-200 yuan per person

Cross Club

The club serves up Italian cuisine with jazz by the Cross Jazz Trio combined with Chinese traditional decor.

Where: 78, Nan Sanlitun Lu
Open: 2pm-3am daily
Tel: 6586 5277
Cost: 150-240 yuan per person

Pink Loft

Thai food is available here featuring a loft style and pink décor – pink being the only color found here.

Where: 6, Nan Sanlitun Lu
Open: 11am-2am daily
Tel: 6506 8811
Cost: 100-250 yuan per person

Secret Garden

A quiet corner where to engage in business activities. Coffee and music offered. Every waiter and waitress is available to be your private secretary.

Where: 6, Nan Sanlitun Lu
Open: 10am-2am daily
Tel: 6507 4890
Cost: 70 yuan per person

Gold Barn

Gold Barn is famous for its standard Sichuan food. Delicious food prepared by professional cooks is available.

Where: Jia 52, Nan Sanlitun Lu
Open: 11am-midnight
Tel: 6502 5142, 6507 0192, 8454 0064 or 8454 0264
Cost: 50-200 yuan per person

Tom Yam Goong

Thai food is offered before 9pm. Afterwards, it changes into a real bar.

Where: Jia 58, Nan Sanlitun Lu
Open: 11am-midnight
Tel: 6502 5118, 6502 5122
Cost: 60 yuan per person

Skyline

The Skyline serves up everybody's favorite Italian food.

Where: 70, Sanlitun Bei Jie
Open: 9am-3am daily
Tel: 6415 1558
Cost: 50-100 yuan per person

Boys & Girls

It features live bands whose singers are moving and full of passion. Before midnight, male-singers perform, while after midnight, the girls take the stage.

Where: 68, Sanlitun Bei Jie
Open: 24 hours
Tel: 6416 6777
Cost: 60 yuan per person

Lan Kwai Fong Bar

It is famous for the fashion show and auction.

Where: 66, Sanlitun Bei Jie
Open: 10:30am-3am daily
Tel: 6417 2589
Cost: 40-120 yuan per person

Swing

The most remarkable rock bar in Sanlitun.

Where: 58, Sanlitun Bei Jie
Open: 10am-2am daily
Tel: 6415 9196
Cost: 20-40 yuan per person

No 60 Bar

It offers 17-inch television sets to watch football games. It is a good place for the sports fans.

Where: 60, Sanlitun Bei Jie
Open: 10:30am-before dawn
Tel: 6416 6414
Cost: 50-80 yuan per person

Palm Beach

Decorated as an island in Hawaii, Palm Beach provides you with a tropical dance floor and dinner tables.

Where: No 56, Sanlitun Bei Jie
Open: 9am-3am
Tel: 6416 4191
Cost: 60-100 yuan per person

Comma Bar

"Comma" means a pause in a sentence and Comma Bar is a place to pause and relax.

Where: 54, Sanlitun Bei Jie
Open: 9am-3am daily
Tel: 6417 4643
Cost: 20-50 yuan per person

52 Bar

It features 52 kinds of cocktails and its own brand - No 52 brand. There are 52 weeks in a year, so every week you can try a new cocktail.

Where: No 52, Sanlitun Bei Jie
Open: 10am-2:30am daily
Tel: 6416 4697
Cost: 50-80 yuan per person

Easy Day

It is a black and white world. Enjoying the easy life, easy years and easy days is the purpose of the Easy Day.

Where: 36, Sanlitun Bei Jie
Open: 10am-2am daily
Tel: 6417 6886
Cost: 40-60 yuan per person

Sunshine Café

It is a small house with orange walls where it's comfortable and elegant.

Where: 22, Sanlitun Bei Jie
Open: 2pm-2am daily
Tel: 6416 4849
Cost: 10-50 yuan per person

Downtown Café & Bar

With the style of Europe, this cafe makes everyone feel comfortable and pleasant with country music.

Where: 26, Sanlitun Bei Jie
Open: 11am-midnight
Tel: 6415 2100
Cost: 80 yuan per person

Red Moon Bar

Every night, interesting games help you make more friends here. Every Tuesday and Wednesday before 10pm is ladies' day and the ladies get in for free.

Where: 8, Sanlitun Bei Jie
Open: 10am-3am daily
Tel: 6416 1633
Cost: 100 yuan per person

Sanlitun Bei Jie

Middle 8

The restaurant is famous for Yunnan cuisine and snacks.

Where: 8, Sanlitun Bei Jie
Open: 11am-2pm, 5:30pm-10pm
Tel: 6413 0629
Cost: 40-150 yuan per person

The Little Mermaid

Cooks from Denmark invite you into the world of Danish food.

Where: the east side of middle 10 building, Sanlitun
Open: 10:30am-11pm
Tel: 6417 8108
Cost: 150-200 yuan per person

Gustomenta

It features famous Italian ice cream.

Where: 24, Sanlitun Bei Jie
Open: 10am-2pm daily
Tel: 6417 8890
Cost: 20-100 yuan per person

Le Petit Paris

Le Petit Paris is like a normal cafe located on a Parisian street.

Where: 29, Sanlitun Bei Jie
Open: 11am-11pm
Tel: 6416 9381
Cost: 100 yuan per person

Cappuccino Club

Cappuccino Club is the biggest bar in Sanlitun and it serves Italian food including pizza, sandwiches, hamburgers and drinks.

Where: 8, Dongzhimen Wai Dajie
Open: 10am-3am daily
Tel: 6417 7035, 6413 0006
Cost: 20-100 yuan per person

Aperitivo

Italian food is served here. The menu is written on a blackboard in the corner. No washrooms are available.

Where: 43, Sanlitun Bei Jie
Open: 10am-10pm
Tel: 6417 7793
Cost: 40-80 yuan per person

Thai Empress

The chef in this restaurant is one of the ten most famous in Thailand.

Where: 5, Sanlitun Bei Jie
Open: 11am-11:30pm
Tel: 6416 6272
Cost: 60-80 yuan per person

Fish Nation

As the name of the restaurant suggests, fish cuisine is well worth trying here.

Where: Sidelong street, Sanlitun
Open: 1am-midnight
Tel: 6415 0119
Cost: 60 yuan per person

Butterfly

Butterfly Bar is a good place for gathering and partying with fashionable music and snacks.

Where: Xiejie, Sanlitun Bar Street
Open: 1pm-midnight
Tel: 6417 6357
Cost: 60 yuan per person

Kai Club

Kai Club is a music club that plays music of various styles including funky house and techno.

Where: Sanlitun Bei Jie, northwest of Friendship Youth Hostel
Open: 6pm-4am daily
Tel: 6416 6254
Cost: 10-20 yuan per person

Golden Elephant

Thai food is available here. There is a "Meinan river" circling the restaurant where you can float a paper boat with a candle in it.

Where: 7, Sanlitun Bei Jie
Open: 11am-11:30pm
Tel: 6417 1650
Cost: 60-80 yuan per person

Handsome Restaurant

Featuring Shanghai food served in comfortable and quiet surroundings, the restaurant is restored in original Shanghai style.

Where: 7, Sanlitun Bei Jie
Open: noon-before dawn
Tel: 6417 8288
Cost: 80 yuan per person

Athena

Sitting in this romantic restaurant is like a trip to Greece.

Where: 1, Xi Wu Jie, Sanlitun
Open: 11am-11pm
Tel: 6464 6036
Cost: 60-150 yuan per person

Serve the People

They serve up Thai food with all materials from Thailand.

Where: 1, Xi Wu Jie, Sanlitun
Open: 10:30am-10:30pm
Tel: 8454 4580
Cost: 70-130 yuan per person

Peter Pan

It has two sections: an Italian restaurant and a place selling Italian food ingredients.

Where: 1, Xi Wu Jie, Sanlitun
Open: 11am-11pm
Tel: 6465 1661
Cost: 20-150 yuan per person

Assaggi

It is a transparent house decorated in red and white, offering traditional Italian food. Its second floor is an open-air glasshouse.

Where: 1, Bei Xiaojie, Sanlitun
Open: 11:30am-11:30pm
Tel: 8454 4508
Cost: 90-200 yuan per person

Paulno Teca

It serves up Italian sandwiches with different breads and spices.

Where: 1, Sanlitun Bei Xiaojie
Open: 9:30am-9:30pm
Tel: 8454 1797
Cost: 30-100 yuan per person

Sanlitun Xi Wu Jie

Riverside Café

It is suitable for business gatherings and dinner.

Where: 10, Sanlitun, Bei Xiaojie
Open: 11am-2pm, 5pm-11pm
Tel: 6466 1241, 8454 1031
Cost: 100 yuan per person

Gangwan Food City

Vietnamese food is available here. Free Karaoke.

Where: 8, Liangmaqiaohe Nan Lu, Sanlitun
Open: 11am-10:30pm
Tel: 6462 3151, 6462 3152
Cost: 80 yuan per person

Schiller's

It is a real delight for the senses, like a bar in Germany.

Where: 1, Liangmaqiaohe Nan Lu, Sanlitun
Open: 9am-1pm
Tel: 6464 9061
Cost: 100 yuan per person

Old Town Roses

A restaurant, a bar, a cigar bar and a cafe merge together. French and Italian cuisines are offered.

Where: 1, Liangmaqiaohe Nan Lu, Sanlitun
Open: 11am-1am
Tel: 6461 2689
Cost: 180 yuan per person

Bella's

Bella's is a bakery offering Italian bread, coffee and soft drinks.

Where: 1, Xi Wu Jie, Sanlitun
Open: 8am-12pm
Tel: 8451 7489
Cost: 35 yuan per person

(By Li Yidan)

BEIJING TODAY

Beijing Today is available at all locations listed above.

Retreat to a mystic mountain

By Huang Daohen

Wenzhou, a well-known eastern coastal city, is known as one of the country's economic powerhouses. Shrewd Wenzhou businessmen travel the world to set up all manner of shops. Mt Yandang, with its cool spots and unusual natural scenery, makes the city distinct from more famous summer destinations in the north.



Dalong Qiu waterfall



A tower, bridge and pool beneath Lingfeng Peak

When talking about famous mountains in China, westerners think of Tibet first, and then Yunnan, Sichuan and Anhui. Mountains in East China are almost unknown, though Mt Yandang should be a noted exception.

During May's Golden Week vacation, I went back to the mountain. Having grown up a Wenzhou local, I assure you the city is active, growing and worth a visit.

Mt Yandang, located in Yueqing County, Wenzhou, Zhejiang Province, is in the top tier of nationally-ranked important scenic sites, and it is considered one of China's ten most famous mountains.

Lingfeng Peak

Many mountain destinations in Sichuan and Yunnan provinces feel like the Alps, since geology and climate have chiseled the mountains into a unique scene. Yandang, however, has its own brand of majesty owing to its high, sunny, limestone cliffs.

There are two options for where to head after arriving at the foot of Mt Yandang: the lake or the mountain. I suggest you take the latter, since the entrance from Wenzhou is located in a circle of mountains topped by high cliffs.

Lingfeng Peak, the east gate of Yandang Mountain, is the first stop. Climbing up along Mingyuxi (Mingyu Stream), one can see the steep cliffs alongside precipitous peaks and zigzagging brooks. The daytime view is beautiful, but beneath the moonlight, it is even more so.

When night falls, the peaks silhouetted against a moon-lit sky form shapes like the "Husband-and-Wife Peak" and "Watching Moon Rhinoceros."

There are small and discreet carnivorous plants growing on the ground in litters of pine needles. In such acidic soil, being carnivorous is the only way for a plant to survive.

At Mt Yandang, you have the chance to see a mountaineering show: a local man tied with ropes making his way down from those cliffs. Though mountaineering is popular in Europe among wealthier circles, at Yandang, the climber was dressed as a farmer and had only basic equipment. He had a bag full of orchids to be sold as medicine.

The tradition of collecting orchids from the cliff has grown rare with increasing local wealth.

Dalong Qiu waterfall

In addition to Lingfeng Peak, Yandang is famous for waterfalls cascading from the top of the cliff to pools at the base. Dalong Qiu is one spot worth visiting. It is the first dried-up stream in China due to the climate.

Dalong Qiu's falls drop nearly 200 meters, and claims to be China's steepest falls. The scene would look even more dramatic if more than a few drops of water reached the pool below.

Most of the forest is composed of pine, and some areas are reminiscent of dense, European forests. Pathways allow you to reach the foot of the cliffs and have a clear view of the valley below.

Sitting by the falls on a rainy day is the best. Even if you live where the Huangguoshu waterfalls are, it would be a mistake to pass up Dalong Qiu. Other falls are just waterfalls, but Dalong Qiu is a dragon. The fall becomes two dragons in the air which land at the bottom in scattered patterns.

The Jinxi River is fed by Dalong Qiu and passes through Jinzhu Jian before flowing into a nearby river and out to sea.

It is said that Xie Lingyun, a poet famous for his poems about landscapes, explored Jinzhu Jian but failed to climb the mountain and missed the chance to explore Dalong Qiu.

Historic culture

Like many other mountains in China, Mt Yandang became famous during the Southern and Northern dynasties (420-581). It was developed during the Tang Dynasty (618-907) and became prosperous in the Song Dynasty (960-1279).

The mountain has long attracted Chinese intellectuals. Shen Kuo, a Song Dynasty geologist, and Xu Xiake, a traveler, geologist and writer, are the most famous people who have left their footprints on Yandang.

Getting there: Yandang can be a weekend trip from Shanghai with a stopover in Wenzhou. If you're in Beijing, you can get to Wenzhou by air. It takes an hour and a half to get there. Try to avoid weekends and festivals because the place is a favorite hangout for Wenzhou natives. Mt Yandang is situated 30 kilometers north of Wenzhou city.

Cost: 20 to 50 yuan for each ticket to the park



Steep cliffs alongside the peak

Wander around in romantic Heidelberg

By Han Manman

Some say Heidelberg is the quintessential German city, standing like a kingdom from one of *Grimm's Fairy Tales*; some say Heidelberg is a university city as it's surrounded by the aged Heidelberg University; others say the romantic, fantasy atmosphere makes it the best place to hold a wedding.

In the late 17th century, the old medieval city was obliterated by the French army, later to be rebuilt in Baroque style over the next century.

The old town

The medieval town is full of cobblestone alleys, half-timber houses, vineyards, castles, wine pubs and Germany's oldest university – all draws for camera-toting vacationers, particularly in summer.

If you're disorganized and prefer to explore on your own, the best way to enjoy the old town is to wander around and see what you find. It doesn't cover a particularly large area, so there's no chance of getting lost.

The best starting point for exploration is the "Burgenstrasse," or "Castle Road." You could also start from Bismarckplatz and walk along the pedestrian-friendly Hauptstrasse (high street). This is the main shopping street in Heidelberg, and you'll find plenty of opportunities to pick up some souvenirs or stop for a coffee or bite to eat. Twenty or thirty years ago, trams used to run along the street.

Heidelberg Castle

Heidelberg Castle is the city's best-known symbol and one of Germany's most romantic locations. The massive fortress has loomed over the city and nearby Neckar River since the Middle Ages, and it has inspired tributes from many writers and painters – among them, British landscape

artist, William Turner and American author, Mark Twain.

The castle is an essential stop on any tour of Heidelberg. Take a guided tour and come back in the evening to walk around the floodlit castle after dark. At the very least, buy an admission ticket to the castle courtyard, which includes entry to the Great Vat and the Germany Apothecary Museum.

On a nice day, you can stroll across the Alte Brücke to the Philosopher's Walk, a series of winding roads and paths that offer great views of old Heidelberg from across the River Neckar, but that view is quite a climb.

The River Neckar

There are a number of passenger ships docked on the River Neckar by the old town. These ships take visitors up and down the Neckar Valley on pleasure trips that run two to three hours. Cruise pass lovely old villages and towns – some dating back a thousand years. The banks are lined with many trees, though they are not dense enough to stave off a sun tan on a bright day.

The boating season runs from Easter to September. A round trip from Heidelberg to Neckarsteinach and back costs about €9 for adults and €5 for children. All trips provide running commentary in Eng-

lish, French and German. Check the timetables at the booking office by the boats.

Cuisine

Heidelberg has a couple of bustling markets – one in the old town and one across the river in Neuenheim. These markets are a part of "real" German life, and are an interesting cultural stop.

In these markets, you'll be surprised by what Germany has to offer in the way of sustenance aside from sausage.

This southwestern part of the country is home to delicious Spätzle noodles, great with melted cheese and onions, and Maultaschen, or stuffed pasta pockets.

Join in the German teatime tradition of Kaffee und Kuchen for some magnificent cakes and pastries.

German beer is still brewed in accordance with a 1516 law that states it may only be made of hops, water, malt and yeast. Visit the Vetter brewery and pub for Heidelberg's own homemade beer; Vetter 33 is reputed to be the world's highest gravity beer at 33 Plato.

Another food you must try in Heidelberg is the asparagus soup, no matter whether cooked with ham or cream. In here, you will see many travelers. On a sunshiny day, ask for a plate of asparagus at a market stall.



Art performance in the street



Asparagus is a famous vegetable in Heidelberg.

Tips

When to Visit – Arts and Events

Heidelberg's magnificent neo-gothic castle provides the backdrop for festivities throughout the summer. Between June and September there are three Schlossbeleuchtung, or castle lighting events when the castle is lit up to appear as if on fire. The lightings commemorate the burnings in 1689, 1693 and 1764. The 'lightings' are followed by spectacular firework displays during celebration weekends and throughout August, when the Heidelberg Castle Festival has a varied program of events in and around the castle.

The German Grand Prix takes place at Hockenheim, about 12 kilometers from Heidelberg, in July, and attracts huge crowds to the prestigious Formula One event. In November, the Mannheim-Heidelberg International Film Festival attracts world visitors.

How to get there

The closest international airport is Frankfurt Airport (Flughafen) Frankfurt Rhein-Main, 80 kilometers or one hour away. Buses are available to take you from the Frankfurt airport to your Heidelberg hotel for €29 per person. The Lufthansa Airport Bus runs between the Terminal 1 arrival area to the Crowne Plaza Hotel in Heidelberg every hour and costs €19 one way.

Heidelberg's central train station (Hauptbahnhof) is located at Willy-Brandt-Platz 5. You can get buses and taxis from the front of the station. There is an Ibis hotel at the station. The station is about a 25-minute walk from the old town. In front of the station is a stop for buses and trams – take the ones marked "Bismarckplatz" to get you to the main street in Heidelberg's old town.



The chance to experience an ancient castle lies through this gate.

Photos by Han Manman

Kappa

Tennis Show

CHINA OPEN
中国网球公开赛

网动中国

FISCHER 菲舍尔

GAMMA

尊尔体育
zunersports
网球场地营造专家

中网俱乐部
CHINA TENNIS CLUB
网球，改变生活

青鸟健身
NIRVANA

Let's Kappa!
Let's shine!
Cheerleaders for China Open wanted!

Wanna be a cheerleader for China Open?
Wanna know world-class tennis players?
Wanna be the next "Miss World" to show your amaze?
Wanna receive a cash award worth 10,000 yuan?

1. Online application:

- (1) Log on to our Web site and download <application form for the Kappa China Open cheerleaders>.
- (2) E-mail us your application, including two to three recent photos, to baoming@tennis.com.cn

2. Phone application:

Call 010-62258464, 010-63440898, or 010-63446998
Coordinator: Liu Chen



Cheer for Miss World Cheer for China Open

The 57th Miss World China
Tel: 010-84273798 010-84272810
Coordinator: Mr. Li Miss. Shang

Please join us in the Kappa Tennis Show, and let your dreams come true!

We'll be waiting for you from July 1 to August 15.
For more details, log on to: www.enjoytennis.com.cn
Or call: 63440898/63446998

Chinglish story

This column focuses on Chinglish mistakes in our daily life. If you have any experiences to share, send them to Gan Tian at gantian@ynet.com.

Chinglish on the way

This column aims to identify Chinglish in public areas. If you see any Chinglish signs, please take a picture and send it to gantian@ynet.com together with your name and address.



Emergency channel

By Derrick Sobodash

Week after week, this column affords this writer interesting opportunities to see what happens when people apply the Babelfish school of translation to the real world.

Someone simply must educate China's translators that a perfect, or even proper, translation is more than simply plugging in English words in place of Chinese characters. Clearly, the communities near Fulicheng are still in the dark about this – and that is despite the area's rapid development and large foreign population.

The sign reads, "The plot emergency channel, the non-urgent condition declines pass through." This is almost word-for-word taken from the Chinese, and some of the word choices are a little odd.

Since this sign hangs outside a gated community, "community" may be a better choice than "plot." "Channel" is more of a communications term, here it should be something like "passage" or "pathway."

The second half of the message almost makes sense, but it is still extraordinarily awkward in English, largely because of the double-negative "non-urgent" and the negative action "declines." It could be flipped around to say, "Only urgent condition may pass through," but that is still worded a bit strange.

The fix is fairly simple. The first half of the message is all one big noun that basically translates as "The community's emergency lane"; the last half says all traffic down this path is prohibited unless there is an emergency.

No loitering in the emergency lane? Who would have thought.

A better sign would be something like, "No entry! Emergency lane reserved for urgent traffic."

Take French leave

By He Jianwei

"Taking a leave" is a romantic topic in any genre of literature both home and abroad. For instance, John Donne's "A Valediction: Forbidding Mourning" is regarded as a classic poem describing the parting of two lovers: the lovers are likened to the two points of a compass.

When I took English writing class in college, the teacher gave us half an hour to write a few paragraphs about a sentimental moment in our lives. After we did so, the teacher chose one piece, read it and analyzed it.

The chosen piece told a story about the parting of the writer's first love. "On a moonless night, we took French leave beneath the willow," the teacher read and paused.

"I'm afraid this student misunderstood the phrase 'take French leave.' Could you explain why you used this phrase here?" the teacher asked.

"I wanted to express that we had a tearful parting last night," one of my classmates in the back of the classroom replied.

"French leave refers to the act of leaving a party without bidding farewell to the host. The

intent behind this act is to leave without disturbing the host. The term is also used to mean leisurely desertion from a military unit, to go away or do a thing without permission," the teacher explained.

The teacher told us the story of the phrase's origin. "The phrase was born at a time when English and French culture were heavily intertwined," she said.

She added the actual derivation might have had its roots in American history during the French and Indian wars. About 140 French soldiers were captured near Lake George in New York and ferried to an island. The French, knowing the area better than the British, waited until dawn and quietly waded ashore leaving their captors bewildered when they awoke. Though its role as such didn't last a day, the island was named Prison Island.

"In the movie *Mr Smith Goes to Washington*, Senator Smith is accused of taking 'French leave' when he fails to show up at his office in a timely manner upon first arriving in Washington, DC," she remarked.



Blacklist

Beijing Today has come up with Blacklist, a new column of words or phrases commonly misused by Chinese speakers. If you're planning to be an English teacher, reporter or employee of a multinational company, then this page is your new best friend. Watch it for each week.

By Shida Zhu

1. China Customs's new regulations

As China Customs is the proper noun for the government department that collects import duties, its possessive form should be China Customs' new regulations. A point so minute, it is very easily overlooked.

2. She arrived in Beijing for only a few days

The verb "arrive" denotes an action at a designated point of time and does not contain any sense of duration. So, you will have to say: She arrived in Beijing the day before yesterday. She had been in the city for only a few days. In using English verbs, you have to be aware of whether it denotes an action at a designated point of time or a period of duration that relates closely to the use of tense.

3. It tells how the Tibetans live with in the 20th century

"How" indicates the way the action is done. For instance, it tells how well the Tibetans lived in the 20th century. If you wish to use the structure "live with", it has to be followed by an object and read like this: It tells what

the Tibetans lived with in the 20th century.

4. For some people who don't shower after exercises often experience pains in the joints.

Can you see what is wrong with this sentence? It does not have a subject. The sentence is corrected by eliminating the word, "For".

5. Pilots who job-hop may cost millions.

The verb "cost" is a transitive verb meaning "causing loss or sacrifice" or "involving an expenditure." So, the word order of this sentence is totally wrong. It should be: It costs the pilots who job-hop, millions.

6. Listen to people describe the challenges

You listen to people doing something. It is not correct to have the verb "listen" followed by an infinitive without "to." More preferably and idiomatically, you would say, "Listen to people describing the challenges."

7. Online protests who said

"Protest" is a noun. So you will have to use the conjunction "that" following it. If it is "protester," then use "who." No

matter how small these things are, you have to correct them for perfect English.

8. The court's decision is encouraging to the accuser's dishonesty.

When you use "encouraging" as a predicate, you say: It is encouraging to the accuser in his dishonesty. If you use "encouraging" as the main verb in the sentence, you will say: It is encouraging the accuser's dishonesty. Please note that there is no longer "to."

9. Due to a scarce in funds

"Scarce" is an adjective meaning "hard to get" or "rare." The phrase "due to" has to be followed by a noun. So, you will have to say: Due to the scarcity of funds.

10. The demolition devices have been moved.

The writer here is confused with "remove" and "move." "Remove" means "to move from a place or a position" while "move" means "to change the place or position." Though they look more or less similar, they have vastly different meanings. Here, you will have to say, "The demotion devices have been removed."



CFP Photos



SPORTS ARENA

WEEKLY!
"POOL TOURNEY"
TIME: EVERY WEDNESDAY 8 PM

CHAO YANG PARK EAST GUAN HU GARDEN TOWER #1



朝阳公园桥东路北观湖国际大厦写字楼1号首层



59283045 / 65381691 / 13901087774

Friday, August 17

Exhibition

What a Chilly Autumn Day
— Sun Guojuan's Solo
Exhibition 1984-2007

Where: You Gallery, No 1
Artstio Area, Hegezhuang
Village, Cuigezhuang Town,
Chaoyang

When: Tuesday- Sunday
10am- 6pm, until October 9

Admission:

Tel: 8456 7763

Scenery — The Photography
of Liang Weizhou



Where: 798 Photo Gallery,
No 4 Jiuxianqiao Lu, Chaoyang
When: Daily 10am-6pm, until
September 7

Admission: Free

Tel: 6438 1784, 6437 5284

Toward or Regime

The group exhibition fea-
tures Liu Bolin, Liu Qiming,
Huang Xu, Bao Pao, Cheng



Chen, Zhang Tian, Liang Yue
and XYZ design group.

Where: Hotsun Art Space, 16
Liaogezhi, South of Seven Star
East Street, No 4 Jiu Xian Qiao
Lu, Chaoyang

When: until September 7

Admission: Free
Tel: 8459 9658

Movie
Three Times

The film spotlights varia-
tions on lovers in three dis-
tinct periods of Taiwanese

sociopolitical evolution.

Where: Cherry Lane Movies,
inside Kent Center, Anjialou,
Liangmaqiao Lu, Chaoyang

When: 8pm

Admission: 50 yuan

Tel: 139 0113 4745

Saturday, August 18

Exhibition

Exhibition by
Three Printmakers
from Hangzhou



Where: Two Lines Gallery,
No 4 Jiuxianqiao Lu, Chaoyang
When: Daily 10am-5:30pm,
until September 13
Admission: Free
Tel: 8459 9423

Music

Three Shadows' Open Air
Folk Music Night

Eight top Chinese
folk bands will be playing live
music.

Where: Three Shadows Pho-
tography Art Centre, No 155
Caochangdi, Chaoyang

When: 8pm

Admission: Free

Tel: 6432 2663

Lonely China Day
Solo Show

Where: 2 Kolegas Bar, inside
the drive-in movie theater park,
No 21 Liangmaqiao Lu, Chaoy-
ang

When: 10pm

Admission: 40 yuan

Tel: 8196 4820

Class

Talk & Screening:
Ballet in China

Wang Ning, photographer,
will give a presentation on
Ballet in China. He has been
documenting China's ballet
troupes all over the country for
many years.

Where: Room 201, Chinese
Culture Club, Kent Center, No
29, Anjialou, Liangmaqiao Lu,
Chaoyang

When: 8pm-10pm

Cost: 40 yuan

Tel: 6432 9341, 6432 1041



Sunday, August 19

Exhibition

Aki Kuroda Solo Exhibition



Where: Beijing Art Museum
of Imperial City, inside the
Chang Pu He Park, east of Tian
An Men, Xicheng

When: Daily 10am-5:30pm,
until September 20

Admission: Free

Tel: 8511 5114

Thai Contemporary:
Charm and Chasm

It's a project exhibition
that brings together a diverse
range of Thai contemporary
artists and their works reflect-
ing a new perspective in
contemporary culture and its
associated narratives.

Where: Tang Contemporary
Art, Gate No 2, 798 Factory,
Jiuxianqiao Lu, Chaoyang

When: Tue-Sun 11am- 7pm,
until August 28

Admission: Free

Tel: 6436 3518

Summer Group Show

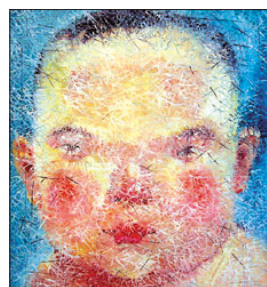
The Summer Group Show
will display artworks of various
artists represented by the Gal-
lery including Ai Weiwei, Li
Dafang, Li Zhanyang, Meng
Huang, Xia Xing, Xie Nanxing.

Where: Galerie Urs Meile,
No 104 Chaochangdi, Chaoyang

When: Tue-Sun
11am-6:30pm, until August 30

Admission: Free

Tel: 6433 3393

Yang Xiaobing
Solo Exhibition

Where: Pada Gallery, 3818
Warehouse, No 2 Jiuxianqiao
Lu, Chaoyang

When: Tue-Sun

1pm-6:30pm, until August 31

Admission: Free

Tel: 6433 5120

Stage in September

Music

Rock'n'roll Banquet
— 2007 Beijing Popular
Music Festival

Who: The Lord Beats an
Entertainer, Cui Jian,
Suede, Nine Inch Nails
and The Ramones.

Where: Chaoyang Park, No 1
Nongzhan Nan Lu, Chaoyang

When: September 8-9

Admission: 200-380 yuan

Swing and Jazz

Who: Savoy Dance Orchestra

Where: The Star Live, No 79
Heping Xi Jie, Dongcheng

When: 8:30pm,

September 13

Admission: 100-150 yuan

Opening Concert of the
Tenth Peking Special Works

— International Music

Section: Beethovens' Works

Who: Lang Lang and
German National Orchestra,
Berlin

Where: Poly Theatre, No 14
Dongzhimen Nan Dajie,
Chaoyang

When: 7:30pm,

September 21

Admission: 180-980 yuan

Dance

Pina Bausch and
Tanztheater Wuppertal
live in Beijing

Who: Pina Bausch and Tanz-
theater Wuppertal

Where: Tianqiao Theatre,
No 21 Tianqiao Beiwei Lu,
Chongwen

When: 7:30pm,

September 20-23

Admission: 180-1,280 yuan

Dancing Queen

Who: Spirit of the Dance
Productions (Ireland)

Where: Beijing Exhibition
Theater, No 135 Xizhimen Wai
Street, Xicheng

When: 7:30pm,

September 21-22

Admission: 180-1,000 yuan

Gala Show by the Russian
Red Army Song and

Dance Ensemble

Who: The Red Army Song
and Dance Ensemble of Russia

Where: Beijing Exhibition
Theater, No 135 Xizhimen Wai
Street, Xicheng

When: 7:30pm,

September 28-29

Admission: 180-680 yuan

Drama

Chinese Musical
"Butterflies"

This is a tragedy similar to
Tragic World. It tells a tale
of life and death intertwined
with true love between a man
and two women. A flowing and
lively story, graceful and fluent
music, poetic and psychedelic
stage language and a show-stop-
ping climax make this a brand-
new twist on the musical genre.
Liang Shanbo and Zhu Yingtai,
a couple from classic legend, are
reborn in the story of "becoming
a Butterfly." The show tells
a Chinese story using western
music and dance forms.

Who: Siqin Gaowa, Shi Ke,
Wang Lihong and Li Wen

Where: Poly Theatre, No 14
Dongzhimen Nan Dajie, Chaoyang

When: 7:30pm,

September 11-20

Admission: 180-1,200 yuan

(By Qiu Jiaoning)